shôjo

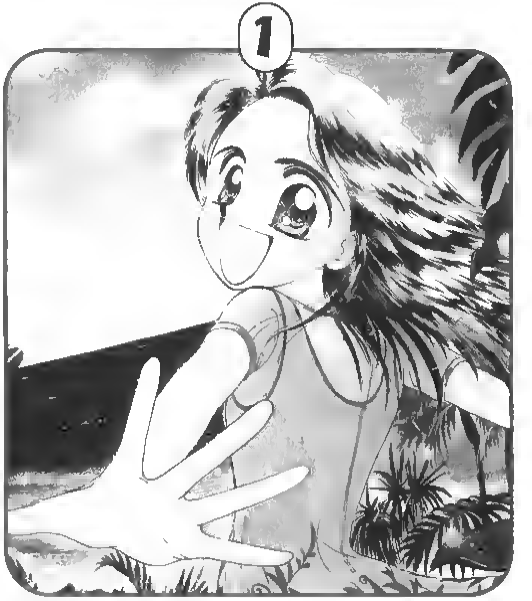
B.B. Explosion™

STORY AND ART BY Yasue Imai

1

VIZ Graphic Novel

B.B. Explosion™



Story and Art by

Yasue Imai

AND TODAY, YOUNG GIRLS WHO GRADUATE FROM THIS SCHOOL...
OKINAW
THE OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL.
THIS IS THE SCHOOL THAT CREATED FAMOUS ENTERTAINERS LIKE NAMIE AMURO, SPEED AND OTHERS
WILL CHANGE THE FACE OF THE MUSIC SCENE IN JAPAN AND OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

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B.B. Explosion Extra: Dear My Friend 157

NOT TODAY I'M GONNA WATCH THE ACTORS SHOW.
LET'S HANG OUT!
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY?
AIRI!

AIRI SURE IS CRAZY ABOUT ISSA.
ISSA?
WAIT FOR ME, ISSA-KUN!
YUP OH NO! IT'S ALREADY 2 O CLOCK!
BOOM²
HUH?

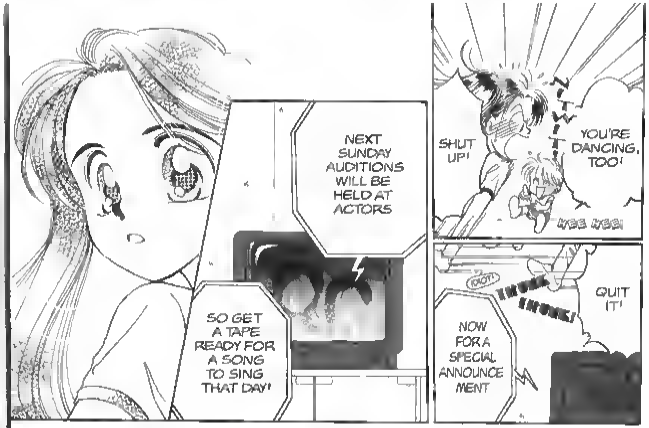
STUPID SIS!
WAAAAGH! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
I'M HOME! C'MON, OUT OF THE WAY! OUT OF THE WAY!
ISHIKAWA
POUT

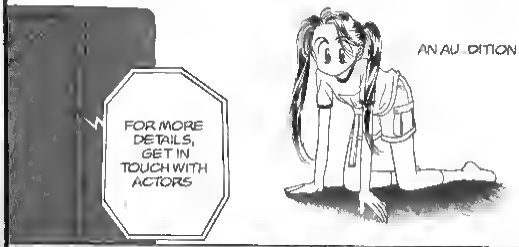
OKINAWA PREFECTURE

AAAAAGH! BOOM BOOM IS STARTING!
TODAY JUST HAD TO BE THE DAY THAT THE MEETING RAN LATE!
6-2
PUFF
PUFF
4-6

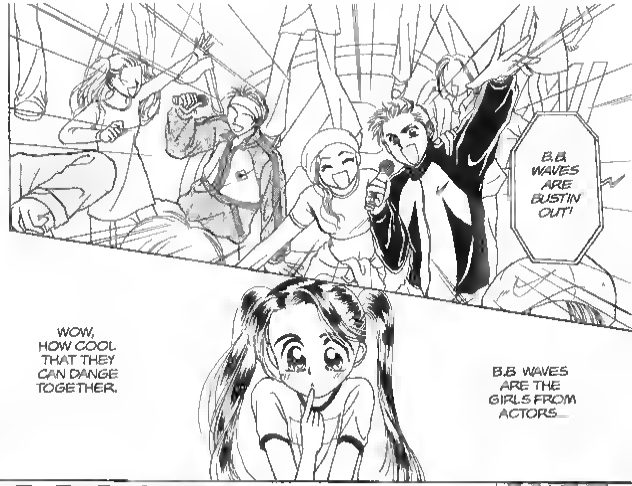
HI BACK!
AAAAAAH! ISSA!
SWING SWING
NOW LET'S BEGIN WITH THE FIRST SONG
SIS, YOU LOOK DUMB!
ISSAAH!
OHH!!
PUMP!

THE ACTORS' FIRST ALL-BOY GROUP
DA PUMP!!
OH NO, IT STARTED ALREADY!
TODAY FOR THE BOOM² SUPER LIVE..
...AND SO
WASSUP!
HI, I'M ISSA
FILA


NEXT SUNDAY AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD AT ACTORS
SO GET A TAPE READY FOR A SONG TO SING THAT DAY!
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE DANCING, TOO!
NYA NYA!
QUIT IT!
NOW FOR A SPECIAL ANNOUNCE MENT

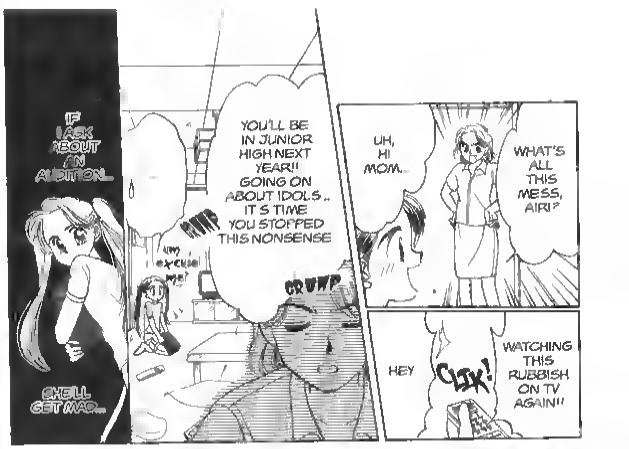

FOR MORE DETAILS, GET IN TOUCH WITH ACTORS
AN AU_DITION..!?

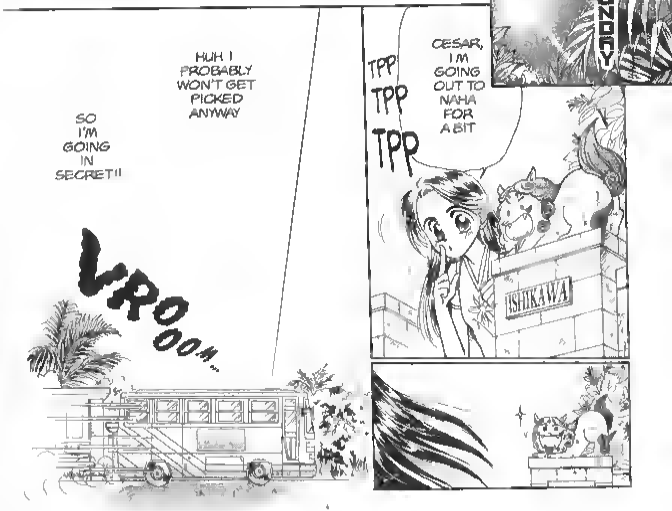
HEY, YEAH!! IF I GO TO THE OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL, I CAN MEET ISSA!!

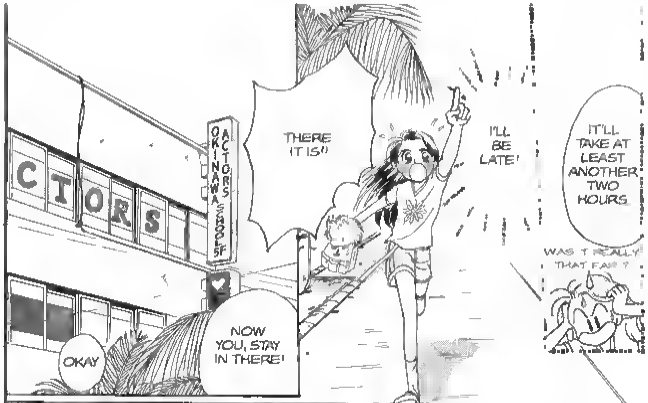

B.B. WAVES ARE BUSTIN OUT!
WOW, HOW COOL THAT THEY CAN DANCE TOGETHER.
B.B. WAVES ARE THE GIRLS FROM ACTORS...

Woosh

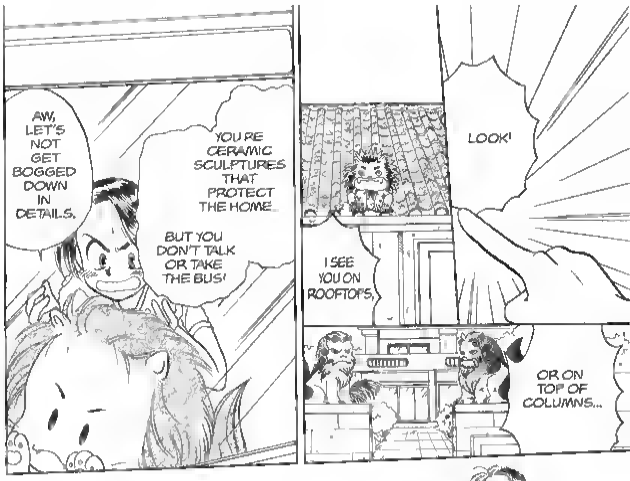
WHAT'LL I DO? I'M GETTING REALLY NERVOUS!!
I'VE NEVER BEEN AS FAR AS NAHA ON MY OWN
B... BUT WHAT DO YOU DO AT AUDITIONS?
GUESS WE HAVE TO SING AT LEAST ONE SONG BUT...
U. ST
PSSH
THW
LP
HUH?
I... I'LL EAT SOME SNACKS TO CALM DOWN
GSH GSH
?
C... CESAR!!?
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SO I CAME ALONG
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
WORRIED!? BUT YOU...
AWW! CLOSE QUARTERS.

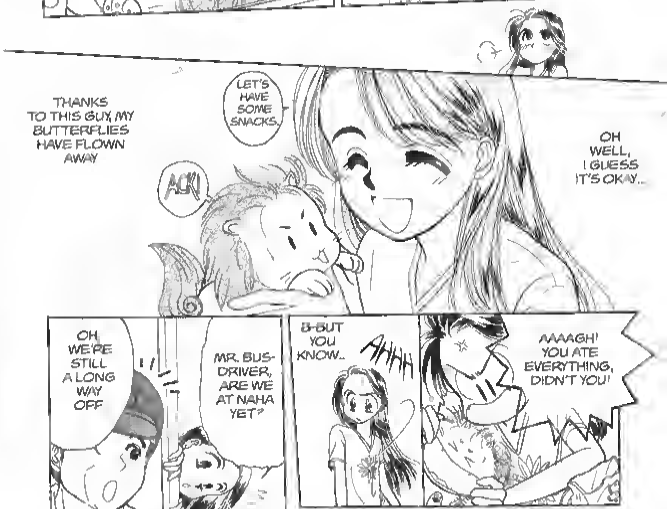

IF I ASK ABOUT AN AUDITION...
SHE'LL GET MAD...
YOU'LL BE IN JUNIOR HIGH NEXT YEAR!! GOING ON ABOUT IDOLS.. IT'S TIME YOU STOPPED THIS NONSENSE
UMP
UM, EXCUSE ME?
GRUMP
UH, HI MOM...
WHAT'S ALL THIS MESS, AIRI?
HEY
CLIK!
WATCHING THIS RUBBISH ON TV AGAIN!!


SO I'M GOING IN SECRET!!
HUH. I PROBABLY WON'T GET PICKED ANYWAY
VROOOM...
SUNDAY
TPP TPP TPP
CESAR, I'M GOING OUT TO NAHA FOR A BIT
ISHIKAWA

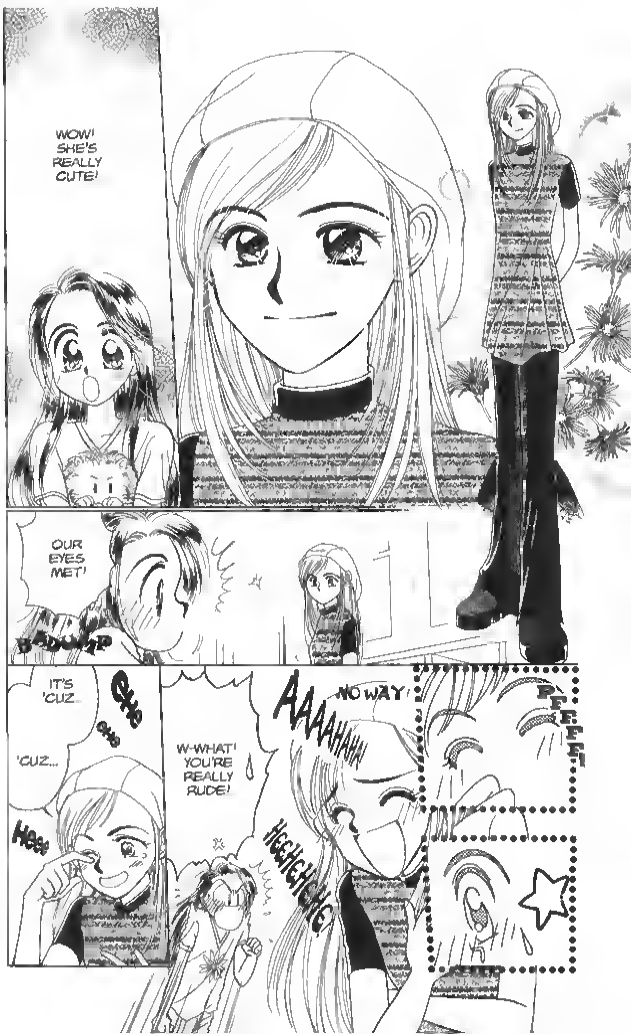

C T O R S
OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL
THERE IT IS!!
I'LL BE LATE!
IT'LL TAKE AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO HOURS
WAS I REALLY THAT FAR?
NOW YOU, STAY IN THERE!
OKAY

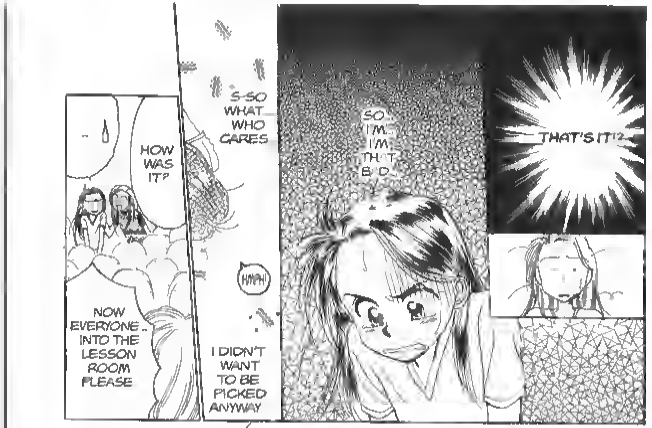
WAGH! SO MANY PEOPLE!!
AND PLEASE WAIT OVER THERE
JUST SIGN YOUR NAME HERE
SOME BIG EGOS HERE TOO
I'LL BE PICKED FOR SURE!
PIECE OF CAKE!!

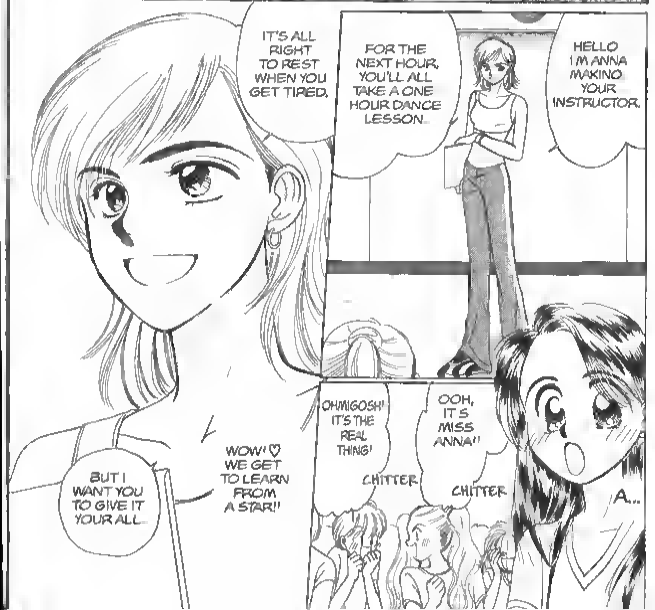

AW, LET'S NOT GET BOGGED DOWN IN DETAILS.
YOU'RE CERAMIC SCULPTURES THAT PROTECT THE HOME...
BUT YOU DON'T TALK OR TAKE THE BUS!
LOOK!
I SEE YOU ON ROOFTOPS,
OR ON TOP OF COLUMNS...

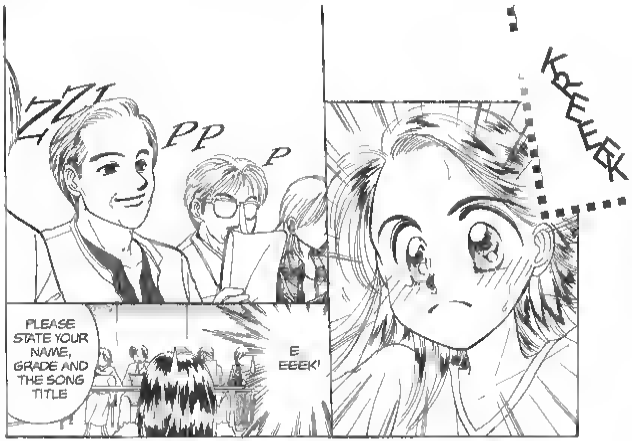

THANKS TO THIS GUY, MY BUTTERFLIES HAVE FLOWN AWAY
LET'S HAVE SOME SNACKS.
ACK!
OH WELL, I GUESS IT'S OKAY...
OH, WE'RE STILL A LONG WAY OFF
MR. BUS-DRIVER, ARE WE AT NAHA YET?
B-BUT YOU KNOW...
AHHH
AAAAGH! YOU ATE EVERYTHING, DIDN'T YOU!

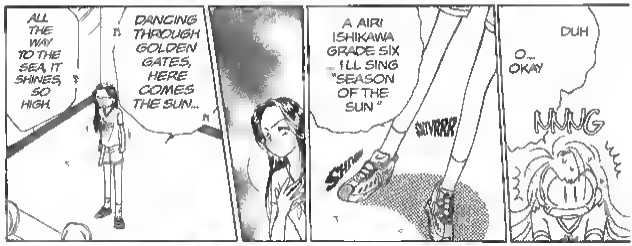
GAAAAAH!
WAS IT OPEN ALL THE WAY FROM HOME!?
CRAB! CRAB!!
I'M YU YAMADA, SIXTH GRADE
GOOD THING IT'S BEFORE THE AUDITION
H-HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO LAUGH?
TEE HEE!
YOUR ZIPPER'S OPEN
THE CRAB PATTERN IS SHOWING
OH...
COMING!
AIRI ISHIKAWA, PLEASE COME INSIDE
OH..
MOM?
BRRRRINGG!
OOOH, WHAT'S THIS? IT'S SO CUTE!
ARE YOU LISTENING?
I...I'M AIRI ISHIKAWA... HEY!!
STOP IT!
GOOD LUCK, CRAB!!
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
HOLY MOLY, SIXTH GRADE AND ALREADY A CELL PHONE!?
EEK!
CHIRRRP CHIRRRP CHIRRRP
WOW, I WANT ONE TOO

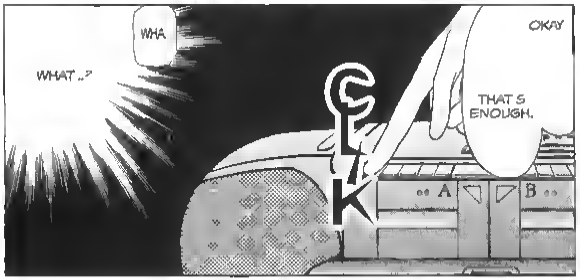

WOW! SHE'S REALLY CUTE!
OUR EYES MET!
BADUMP
IT'S 'CUZ...
CHE CHE
'CUZ...
HEE
W-WHAT! YOU'RE REALLY RUDE!
AAAAHAHA
NO WAY!
HEHEHEHE
FFFFF


HOW WAS IT?
NOW EVERYONE... INTO THE LESSON ROOM PLEASE
S-SO WHAT... WHO CARES
HMPH
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE PICKED ANYWAY
SO... I'M... I'M THAT BAD...
THAT'S IT!?


IT'S ALL RIGHT TO REST WHEN YOU GET TIRED.
FOR THE NEXT HOUR, YOU'LL ALL TAKE A ONE HOUR DANCE LESSON.
HELLO I'M ANNA MAKINO. YOUR INSTRUCTOR.
BUT I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT YOUR ALL.
WOW! ♡ WE GET TO LEARN FROM A STAR!!
OHMIGOSH! IT'S THE REAL THING!
CHITTER
OOH, IT'S MISS ANNA!!
CHITTER
A...

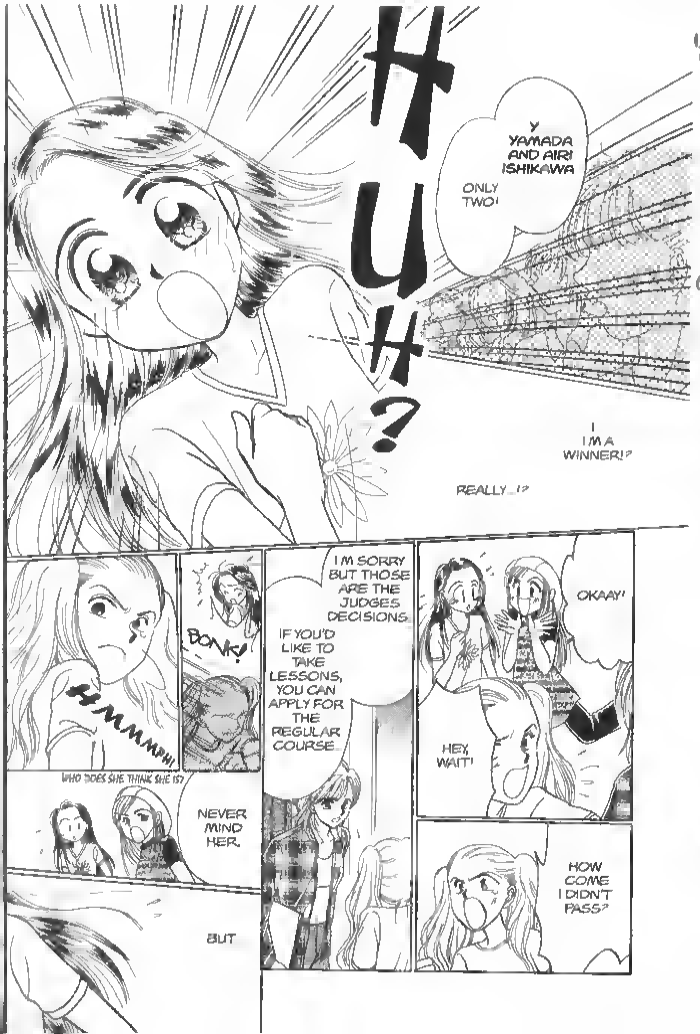

ZZZ
PP
P
KNEEL
PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, GRADE AND THE SONG TITLE
E EEEK!


ALL THE WAY TO THE SEA, IT SHINES, SO HIGH.
DANCING THROUGH GOLDEN GATES, HERE COMES THE SUN...
A AIRI ISHIKAWA GRADE SIX I'LL SING "SEASON OF THE SUN"
SHIIIRRR
SHIIT
DUH
O... OKAY
NNNG

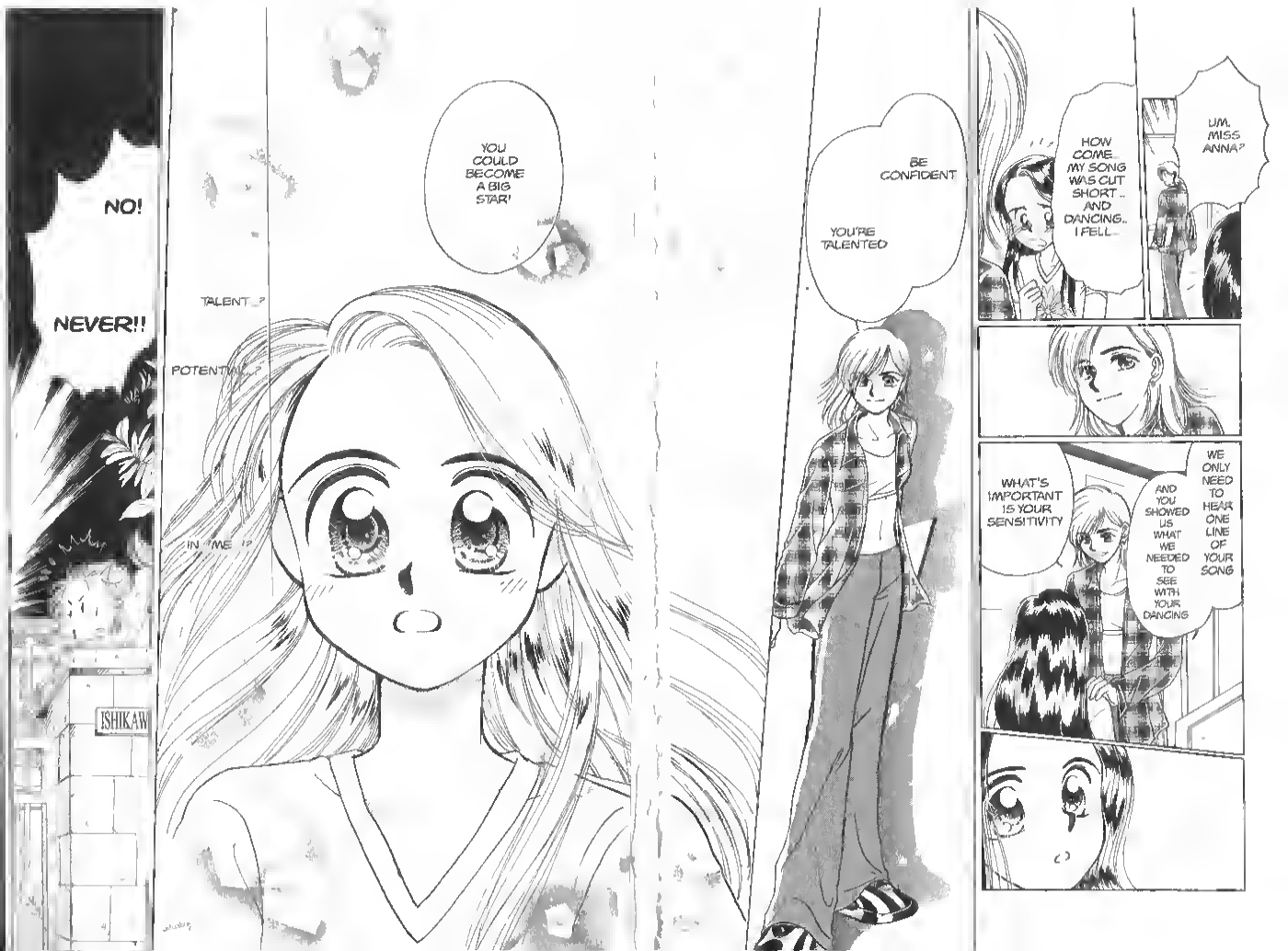

WHA
WHAT..?
OKAY
THAT'S ENOUGH.
CLICK
A
B

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE NOW
YO, HER AGAIN!
WHEN
TRIPPED!
HA HA HA HA HA
HOOOO!
HEY..
WHSHH
WHO CARES IF I'M BAD I'LL JUST DO WHATEVER I WANT!
THIS FEELS PRETTY GOOD...

HEY THEY HAVE THIS SONG ON BOOM* ALL THE TIME!!
WE'RE GOING INTO THE MUSIC!
EVERYBODY DANCE!
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO DANCE LIKE THAT?
ALL RIGHT! I CAN DO THIS..
AGH!
TOO..
SHP!
WHOMP
AHHAHAHAHA!
HEE HEE
HEE HEE


HUH?
Y YAMADA AND AIRI ISHIKAWA
ONLY TWO!
I I'M A WINNER!?
REALLY...!?
HMMMPH!
BONK!
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
NEVER MIND HER.
BUT
I'M SORRY BUT THOSE ARE THE JUDGES DECISIONS.
IF YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE LESSONS, YOU CAN APPLY FOR THE REGULAR COURSE.
OKAAY!
HEY, WAIT!
HOW COME I DIDN'T PASS?

NOW
PLEASE WAIT FOR THE ANNOUNCE MENT
NGs
YO.
HEHEE!! YOU BUSTING BUT LAUGHING?
AIRI,♡ YOU WERE PRETTY COOL
PFF PFF
TO DANCE MY HEART OUT
SO IT'S THIS MUCH FUN!!
I I REALLY WANT TO JOIN ACTORS!!
I WANT TO TAKE LESSONS..!!
I CAME TO THIS AUDITION HOPING TO... JUST MEET ISSA, BUT...
THE ANNOUNCE MENT
THE WINNERS ARE
SQUEE!
I WANT TO SING!!
THUMP
THUMP
I WANT TO DANCE!!

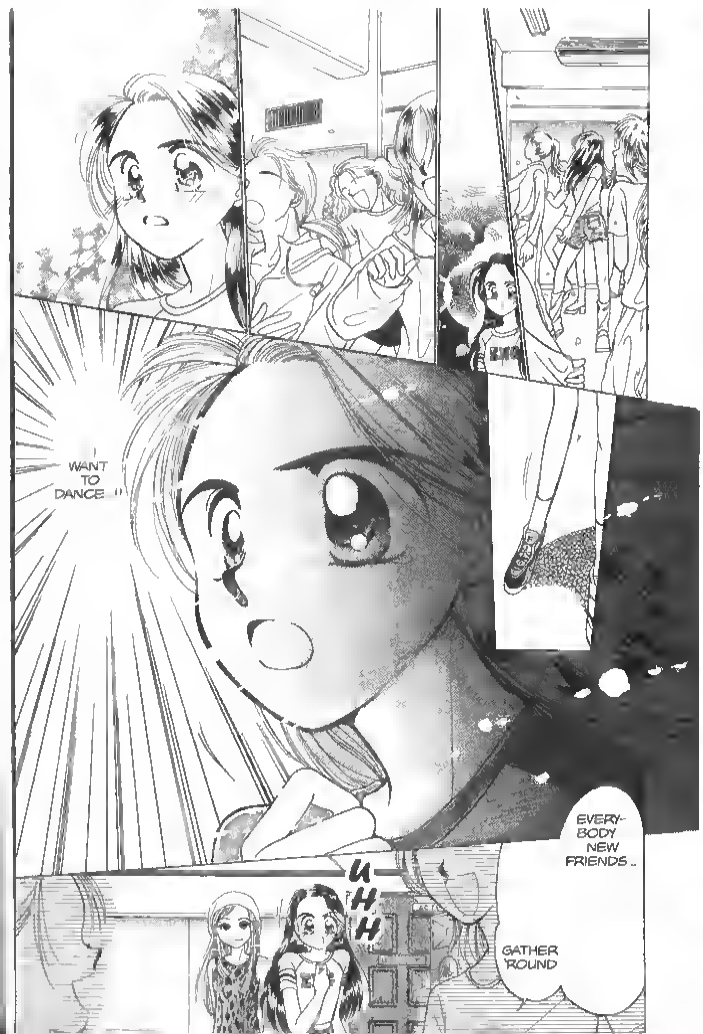
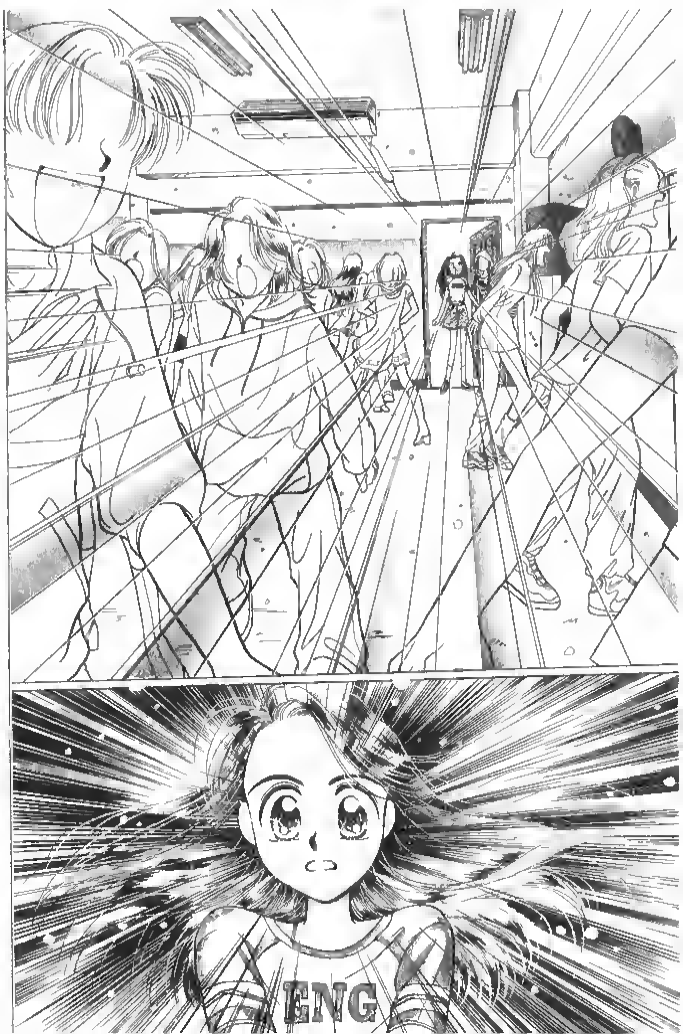

NO!
NEVER!!
ISHIKAWA
YOU COULD BECOME A BIG STAR!
TALENT...?
POTENTIAL...?
IN ME...?
BE CONFIDENT
YOU'RE TALENTED
UM, MISS ANNA?
HOW COME... MY SONG WAS CUT SHORT... AND DANCING... I FELL...
WE ONLY NEED TO HEAR ONE LINE OF YOUR SONG
AND YOU SHOWED US WHAT WE NEEDED TO SEE WITH YOUR DANCING
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS YOUR SENSITIVITY

YOU'RE TOO YOUNG!!
I'LL WORK IN NAHA AND ATTEND ACTORS!!
WHAT?!?
THEN I'LL RUN AWAY FROM HOME!!
BUT I WILL!!
I'M GOING NO MATTER WHAT!!
I HAVE TO
GO THERE..

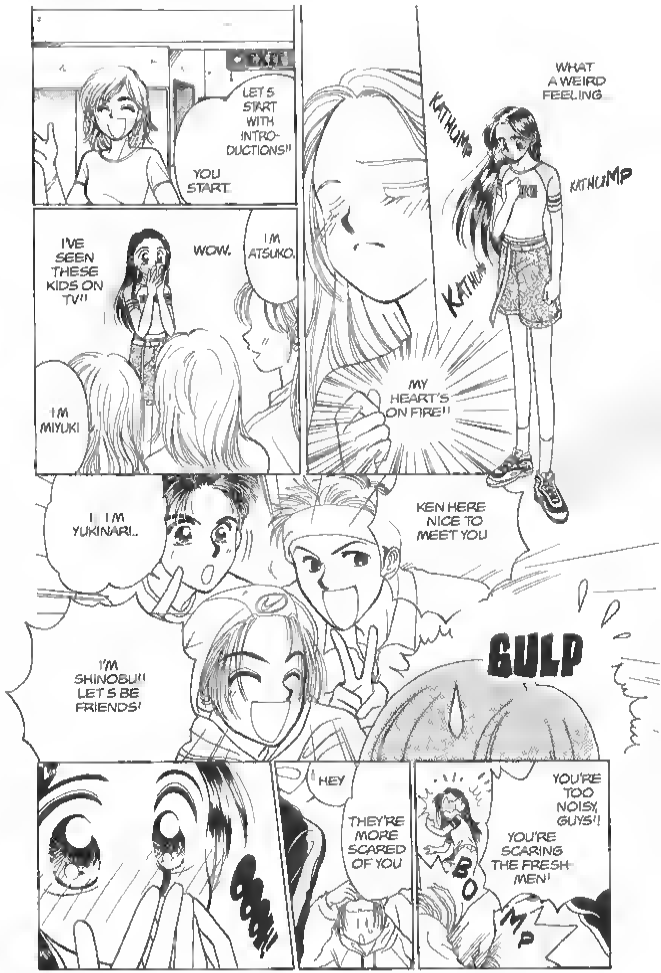
AND AS FOR DANCE, JUST GO DO SOME RYUKYU.
IF YOU WANT TO SING, YOU CAN GO TO A LOCAL FOLK SONG CLASS!!
PLEASE!! I REALLY WANT TO GO!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
YOU WON'T!!
BSSS!
ADMISSION FORM
CONTRACT
WHAT'S THIS ACTORS ANYWAY!!
GOING TO A PLACE LIKE THAT WITHOUT EVEN TELLING YOUR PARENTS!!
BESIDES, HOW FAR DO YOU THINK IT IS TO NAHA!!
BOTTOM LINE, YOU DON'T NEED TO GO TO THAT KIND OF SCHOOL!

AT ACTORS, WE HAVE REGULAR AND SPECIAL CLASSES.
YOU TWO, WHO PASSED AUDITIONS, WILL TAKE THE SPECIAL CLASSES.
EVERYONE IN THAT CLASS IS HOPING FOR A MAJOR DEBUT.
CRABBY! CRABBY!
HEY, YO!
YEAAAAAY!! I CAN GO TO ACTORS!!
OKIN
OH... YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
UM, SO IT'S THE SAME CLASS AS "PUMP"!?
THIS WAY
BUT TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS AS ISSA!!
DEBUT DOESN'T MATTER.
DAD WOULDN'T LET ME ANYWAY
KCCCHH
STORE
ACTORS
LESSON Room 1

SHEESH YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME STUBBORN ONCE YOU GET AN IDEA IN YOUR HEAD
THEN..
THEN... IT'S OKAY!?
DAD?
..YOU'LL REALLY BE ABLE TO COMMUTE BY YOURSELF?
OH THANK YOU DAD!!
I CAN'T HAVE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME NOW, CAN I?
OKAY!!
I'LL NEVER GO TO TOKYO!!
YOU UNDERSTAND?!
HOWEVER!
I WILL NEVER ALLOW...
...YOU TO GO TO TOKYO, AND BECOME SOME GODZILLA, OR WHATEVER!!
GODZILLA?

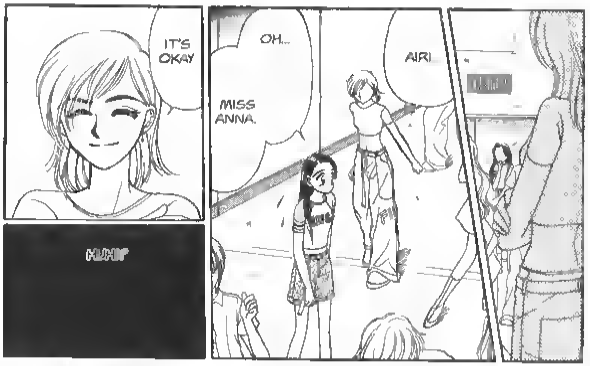

I WANT TO DANCE..
EVERY-BODY NEW FRIENDS..
GATHER 'ROUND
UHH
H

ENG

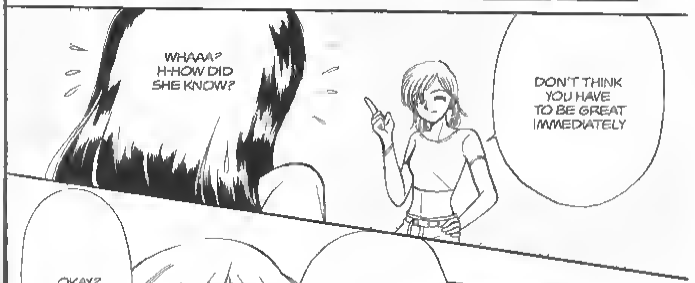
OOOOH...
OOOOHMI GOSH! ISSA!!
I'M ISSA
NICE TO MEET YOU
SHPPP.
CAN'T HELP IT! IT'S JUST MY NATURE!
HOW COME YOU GET TO BE SO COOL!?
HE'S EVEN CUTER THAN ON TV!!
YUMI
YO, GO WITH ISSA'S GROUP AND AIRI, GO WITH YUMI'S
I CAN'T BELIEVE I MET HIM!!
HUH!?
THE MUSIC'S STARTING!!
I WANTED TO DANCE WITH ISSA..
LUCKY YO
DUHHH
YUMI UM, NICE TO MEET YOU..
HMMMMH

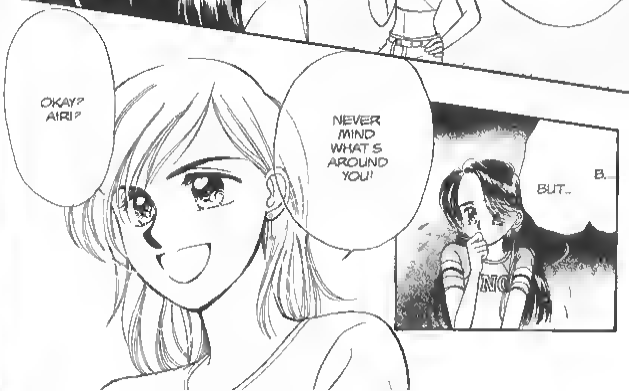

EXIT
LET'S START WITH INTRO-DUCTIONS" YOU START.
I'M ATSUKO.
WOW.
I'VE SEEN THESE KIDS ON TV!!
I'M MIYUKI
WHAT A WEIRD FEELING..
KATHUMP
KATHUMP
KATHUMP
MY HEART'S ON FIRE!!
I.. I'M YUKINARI..
KEN HERE NICE TO MEET YOU
I'M SHINOBU!! LET'S BE FRIENDS!
GULP
HEY
THEY'RE MORE SCARED OF YOU
BO
MP
YOU'RE TOO NOISY, GUYS!!
YOU'RE SCARING THE FRESH MEN!

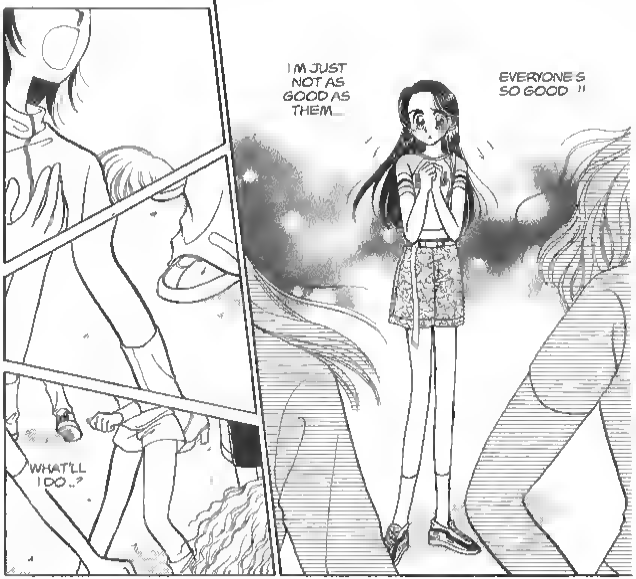
WAOO!
AND ISSA
YO, TOO...
EVERYONE'S SO GOOD!!!
WILL I R-REALLY BE ABLE TO HOLD MY OWN...!?
I.. I.. MAYBE I'VE ENTERED A DIFFERENT UNIVERSE!!

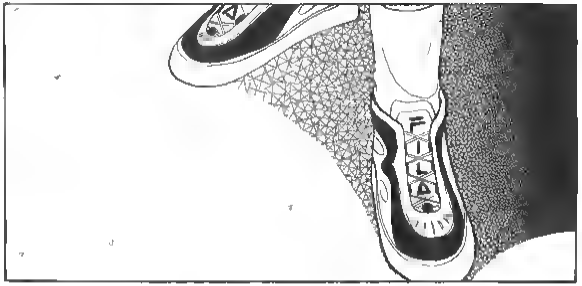
HUH!?
BAMP!
SSSHA!
WHAAAT!?
YOU'RE KIDDING...
IS..IS THIS REALLY THE GUY WHO WAS JUST STANDING THERE!?
WH WHAT A VOICE!!
WHAT SENSE OF RHYTHM!!


IT'S OKAY
HUH?
OH...
MISS ANNA
AIRI


WHAAA? H-HOW DID SHE KNOW?
DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO BE GREAT IMMEDIATELY

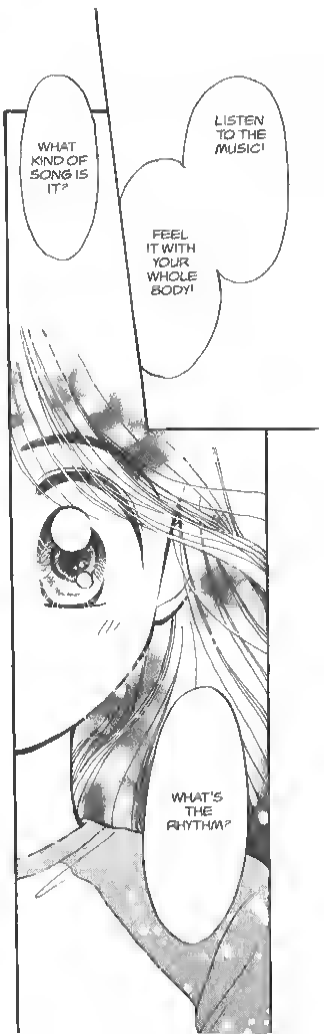

OKAY? AIRI?
NEVER MIND WHAT'S AROUND YOU!
B... BUT...


I'M JUST NOT AS GOOD AS THEM...
EVERYONE'S SO GOOD !!
WHAT'LL I DO..?

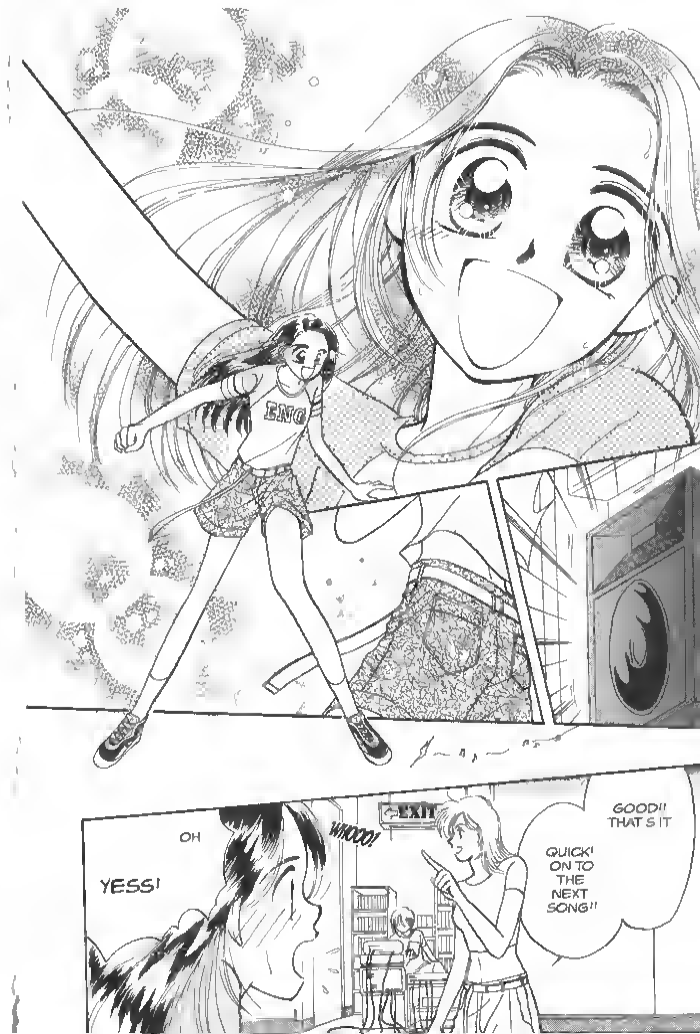

FILA

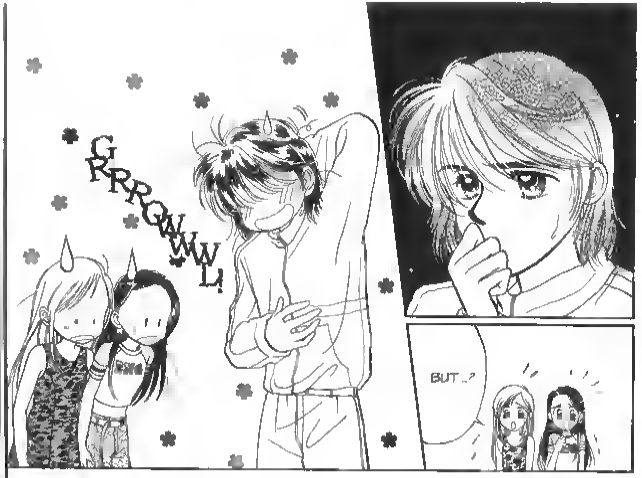
GET INTO THE RHYTHM FROM YOUR FEET UP!
THAT'S IT! BELIEVE IN YOURSELF! HEAD UP
PUT YOUR WHOLE BODY INTO IT!
TAP
STOMP
STOMP
AIRI!! EXPLODE WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!!
CLAP!!

THE MUSIC WITH MY WHOLE BODY!
WHAT DOES AIRI THINK OF WHEN HEARING THIS MUSIC?
WHAT DOES IT MAKE YOU WANT TO DO?

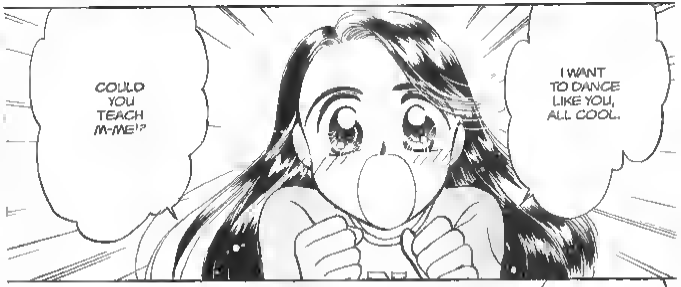

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC!
WHAT KIND OF SONG IS IT?
FEEL IT WITH YOUR WHOLE BODY!
WHAT'S THE RHYTHM?

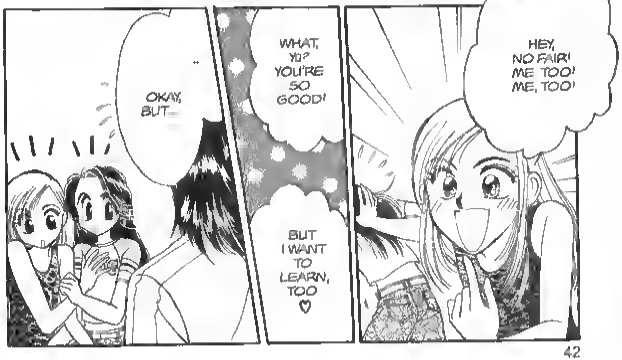
I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE!!
I FEEL LIKE THE MUSIC'S STILL PLAYING IN MY BODY
HUH... I DANCED A WHOLE SONG WITHOUT REALIZING
PUF
PUF
SO DON'T BE INTIMIDATED!
ALTHOUGH SHE'S IN NINTH GRADE...
YUMI STARTED HERE ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO
KEEP IT UP, AIRI!
ONLY TWO MONTHS!?
WHAT...?
AND SHE'S THAT GOOD!?
ENG

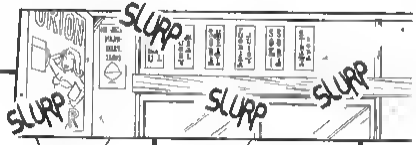

ENG
OH
YESS!
WHOOO!
EXIT
GOOD!! THAT'S IT
QUICK! ON TO THE NEXT SONG!!

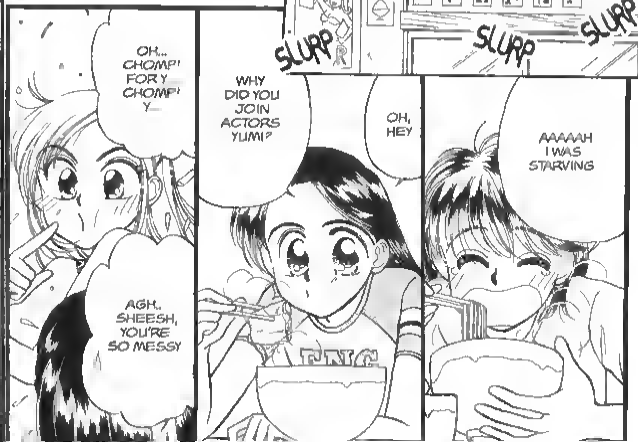

GRRROWWL!
BUT...?

OH, OKAY
CALL ME YUMI KŌCHI SOUNDS SO STUFFY
YUMI KŌCHI, HEY!
KŌCHI!!

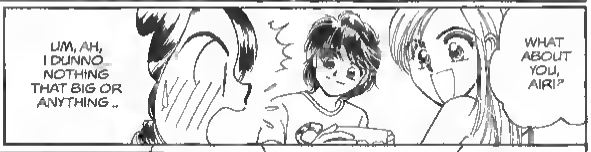

COULD YOU TEACH M-ME!?
I WANT TO DANCE LIKE YOU, ALL COOL.

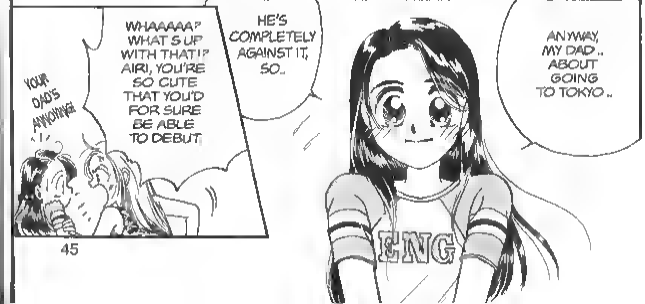

OKAY, BUT...
WHAT, YU? YOU'RE SO GOOD!
BUT I WANT TO LEARN, TOO ♡
HEY, NO FAIR! ME TOO! ME, TOO!


SLURP
SLURP
SLURP

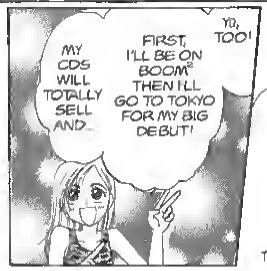

OH.. CHOMP! FOR Y CHOMP! Y...
AGH.. SHEESH, YOU'RE SO MESSY
WHY DID YOU JOIN ACTORS YUMI?
OH, HEY
AAAAAH I WAS STARVING

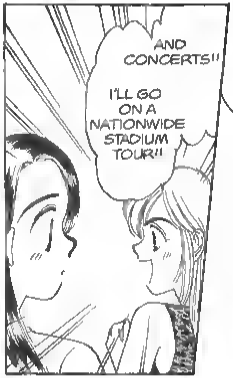
A WORLD TOUR!
JUST LIKE MICHAEL JACKSON!
THEN AFTER THAT..
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A DREAM..
GOING PRO AND DEBUTS.


UM, AH, I DUNNO NOTHING THAT BIG OR ANYTHING..
WHAT ABOUT YOU, AIRI?


WHAAAAA?! WHAT'S UP WITH THAT!? AIRI, YOU'RE SO CUTE THAT YOU'D FOR SURE BE ABLE TO DEBUT.
YOUR DAD'S ANNOYING!
HE'S COMPLETELY AGAINST IT, SO..
ANYWAY, MY DAD.. ABOUT GOING TO TOKYO..

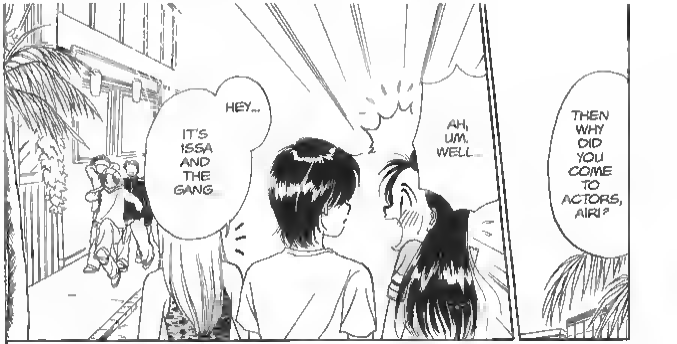
WHAAAAT!? NO WAY!
AND WHEN I TOOK THE SECOND ROUND EXAMS, I WON THE GRANDPRIX SO..
AND JUST HAPPENED TO PASS..
I JUST WENT ALONG WITH A FRIEND TO ATTEND AN AUDITION..

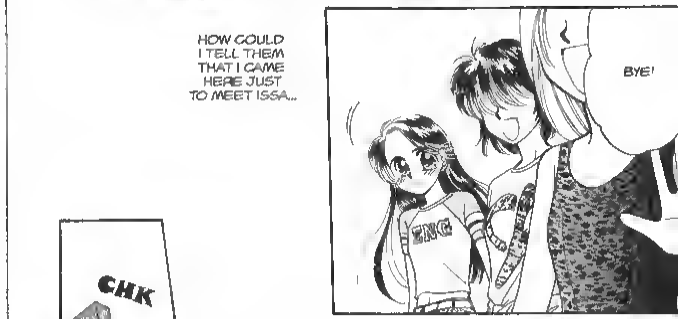

MY CDS WILL TOTALLY SELL AND..
FIRST, I'LL BE ON BOOM[2] THEN I'LL GO TO TOKYO FOR MY BIG DEBUT!
YO, TOO!

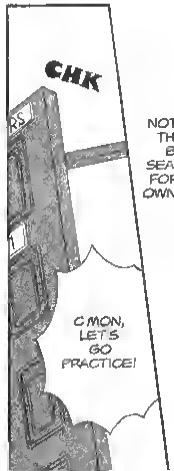

I'LL GO ON A NATIONWIDE STADIUM TOUR!!
AND CONCERTS!!

THAT'S WHY I WANNA BE A PROFESSIONAL SINGER!!

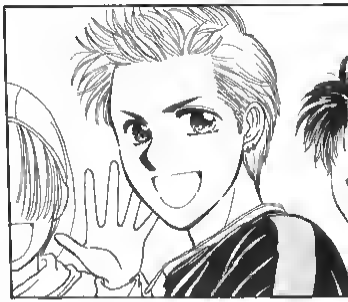
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT...
NOW, BEING AT ACTORS IS THE GREATEST!
I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I LOVED SINGING AND DANCING!

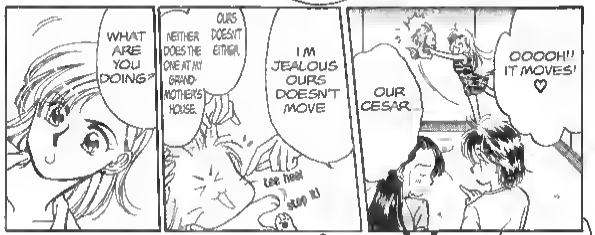


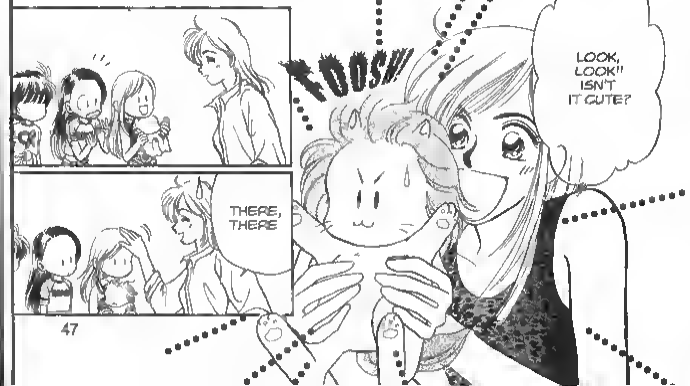




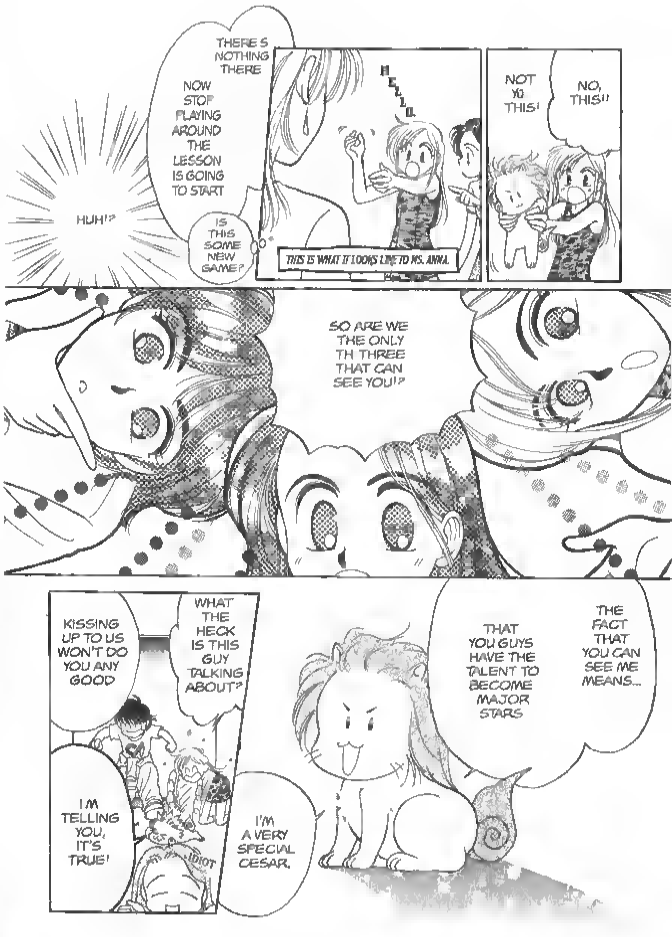
NOT WHEN THEY'RE BOTH SEARCHING FOR THEIR OWN PATHS..



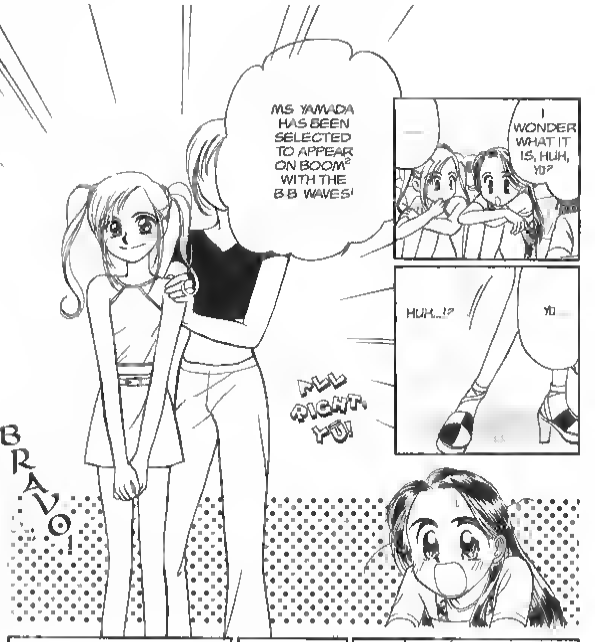


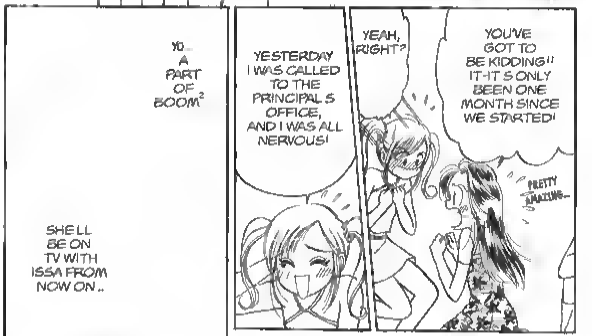


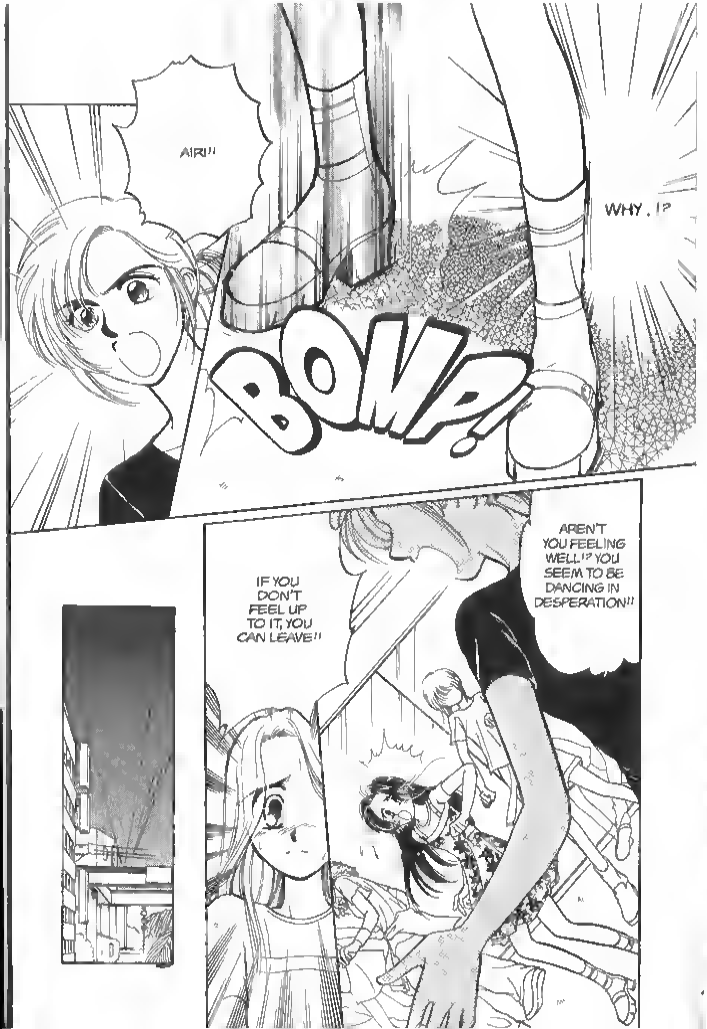
OKINAWA ACT
OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL
DON'T SAY THAT. YOU'VE GOTTEN REALLY GOOD!
R-REALLY?
YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR A MONTH, HUH?
YUP. BUT I'M STILL PRETTY BAD.
MORNING!
MORNING
LESSON ROOM 1
TODAY, BEFORE WE START OUR LESSONS, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT.


HUH!?
THERE'S NOTHING THERE
NOW STOP PLAYING AROUND THE LESSON IS GOING TO START
IS THIS SOME NEW GAME?
HELLO
THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO MS. ANNA.
NOT YU THIS!
NO, THIS!!
SO ARE WE THE ONLY TH THREE THAT CAN SEE YOU!?
KISSING UP TO US WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS GUY TALKING ABOUT?
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S TRUE!
I'M A VERY SPECIAL CESAR.
THE FACT THAT YOU CAN SEE ME MEANS...
THAT YOU GUYS HAVE THE TALENT TO BECOME MAJOR STARS

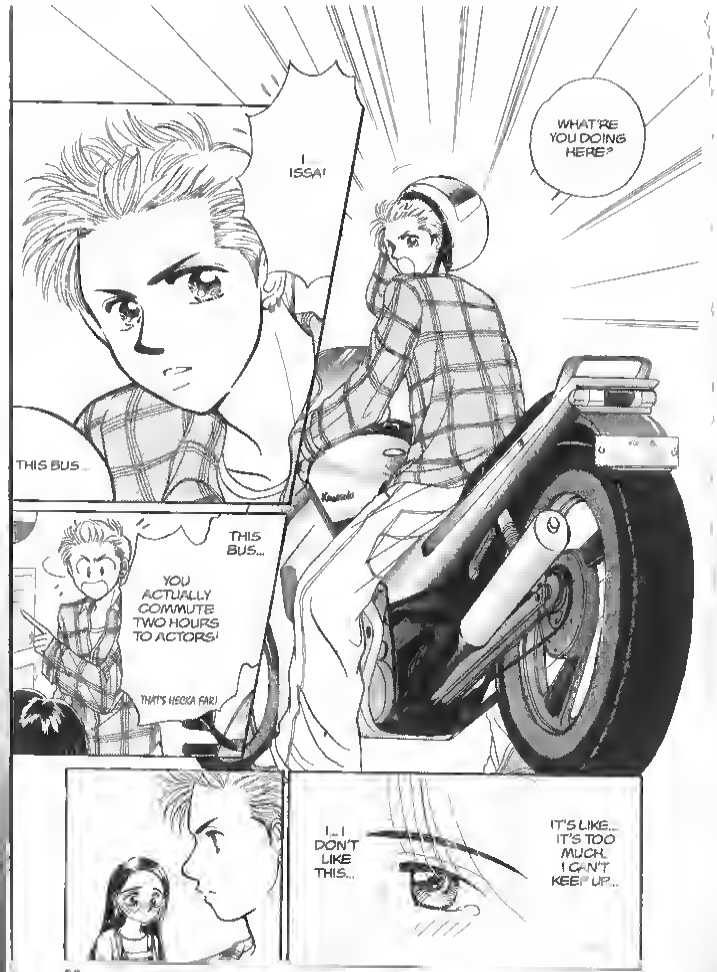
DA PUMP IS GRADUATING FROM THE ACTORS SCHOOL!
AND ALSO..
TO TOKYO...!!
WE'LL GO TO TOKYO NEXT MONTH.
TO MAKE WAY FOR OUR MAJOR DEBUT...

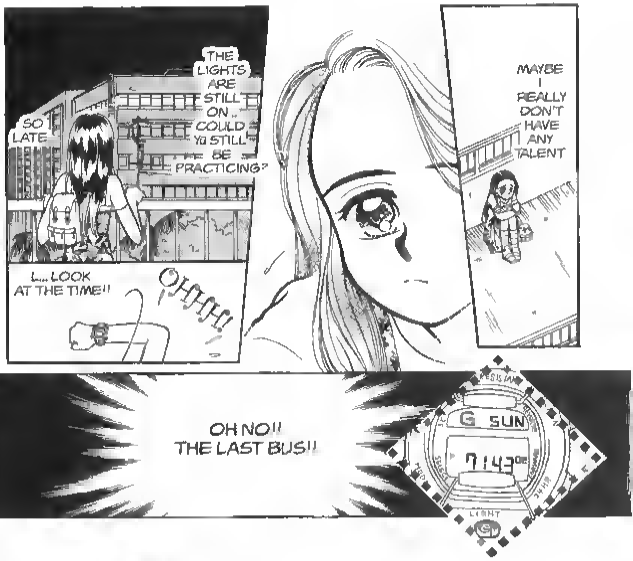

MS. YAMADA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO APPEAR ON BOOM² WITH THE B.B. WAVES!
I WONDER WHAT IT IS, HUH, YO?
HUH...!?
YO...
ALL RIGHT, YO!
BRAVO!

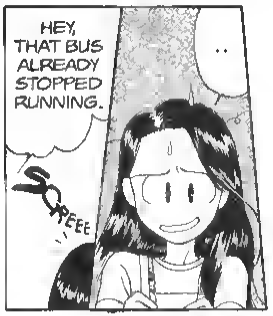

YO... A PART OF BOOM²
SHE'LL BE ON TV WITH ISSA FROM NOW ON..
YESTERDAY I WAS CALLED TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE, AND I WAS ALL NERVOUS!
YEAH, RIGHT?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!! IT-IT'S ONLY BEEN ONE MONTH SINCE WE STARTED!
PRETTY AMAZING...

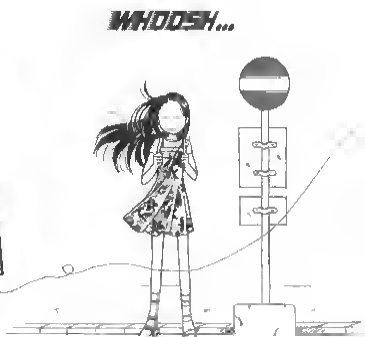

AIRI!!
WHY..!?
BOMP
IF YOU DON'T FEEL UP TO IT, YOU CAN LEAVE!!
AREN'T YOU FEELING WELL!? YOU SEEM TO BE DANCING IN DESPERATION!!

OKAY, WE'RE GOING TO START LESSONS NOW!
ISSA!!
JUST WHEN I FINALLY, FINALLY HAVE A CHANCE!?
NO WAY SO SOON...
THEN YU ONLY YU GETS TO BE ON STAGE WITH THEM!!
IN ISSA'S LAST TELEVISED PROGRAM IN OKINAWA EVER!!
I'M WORKING JUST AS HARD...
WHY ONLY U...?
GRAAA


I... ISSA!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
THIS BUS...
Kwaah!
THIS BUS...
YOU ACTUALLY COMMUTE TWO HOURS TO ACTORS!
THAT'S HECKA FAR!
I... I DON'T LIKE THIS...
IT'S LIKE... IT'S TOO MUCH. I CAN'T KEEP UP...

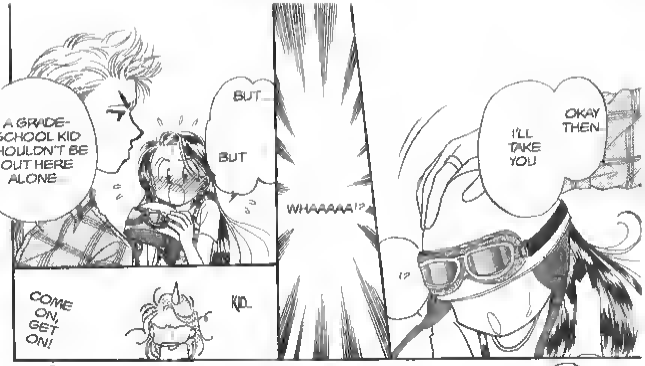

SO LATE...
THE LIGHTS ARE STILL ON... COULD YA STILL BE PRACTICING?
I... LOOK AT THE TIME!!
OHHHH!
MAYBE I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT
OH NO!! THE LAST BUS!!
G SHOCK
SUN
7143
LIGHT


HEY, THAT BUS ALREADY STOPPED RUNNING.
..
SCREEE

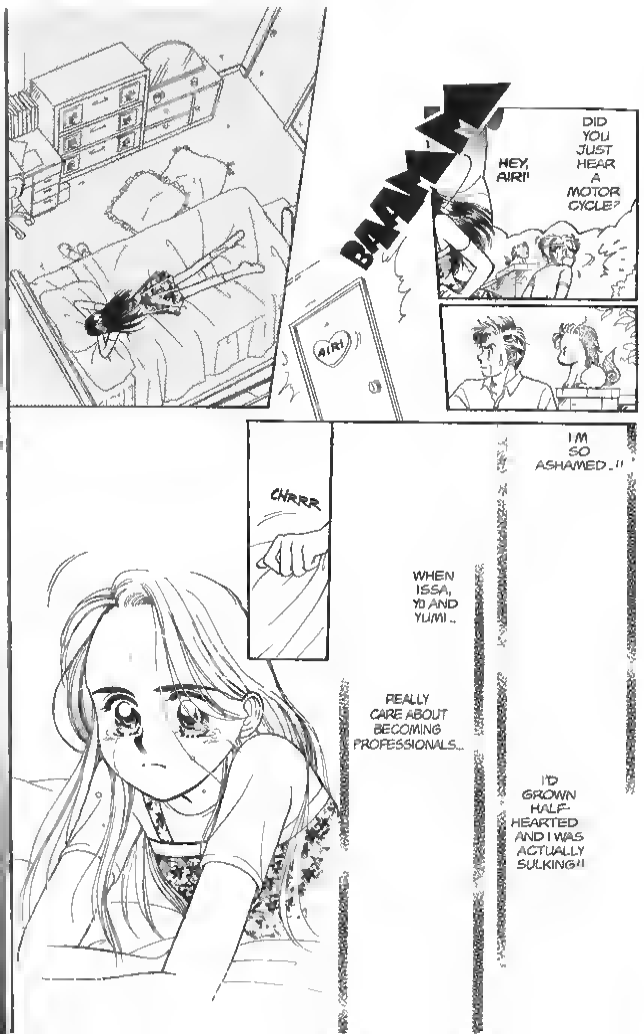

WHOOSH...

SSA

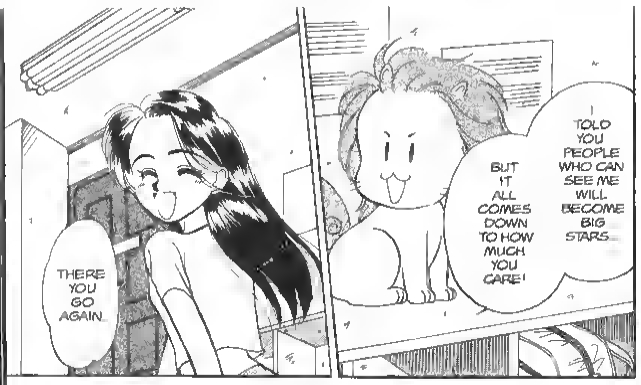
AIR!
THANKS FOR TAKING ME THIS FAR
YES?
OH, AT THAT LIGHT.. MY HOUSE IS REALLY CLOSE..
NORTH
EAST

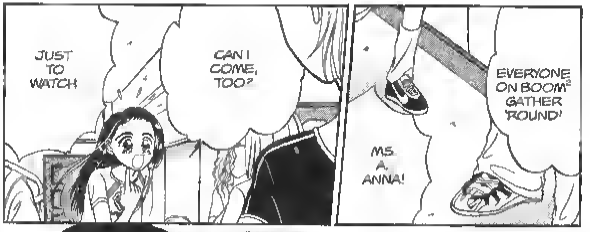

A GRADE-SCHOOL KID SHOULDN'T BE OUT HERE ALONE...
BUT...
BUT
WHAAAAA!?
COME ON, GET ON!
KID..
I'LL TAKE YOU
OKAY THEN.
!?

HERE
HOLD TIGHT!
I'M NOT PICKING YOU UP IF YOU FALL, OKAY!
VROOOM

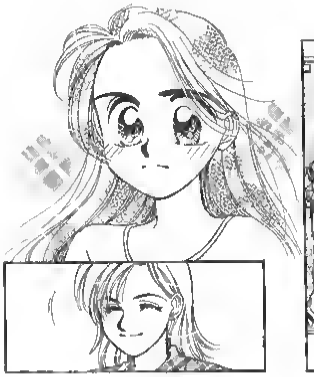

BAHAAM
HEY, AIRI!
DID YOU JUST HEAR A MOTOR CYCLE?
AIRI
I'M SO ASHAMED..!!
CHRRR
WHEN ISSA, YO AND YUMI..
REALLY CARE ABOUT BECOMING PROFESSIONALS..
I'D GROWN HALF-HEARTED AND I WAS ACTUALLY SULKING!!

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE A SINGER...
IT WON'T MATTER WHO WINS YOU CAN'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO OTHERS...
WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE ARE YOU COMING TO ACTORS WITH?
HUH?
BEFORE YOU DO THAT, THERE'S SO MUCH YOU HAVE TO DO, RIGHT?
FIND YOUR OWN INNER LIGHT...
A-AIRI!! YOU'RE LATE!!
OH...
BYE! SEE YA AT SCHOOL


I TOLD YOU PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE ME WILL BECOME BIG STARS...
BUT IT ALL COMES DOWN TO HOW MUCH YOU CARE!
THERE YOU GO AGAIN.


EVERYONE ON BOOM² GATHER 'ROUND!
MS. A. ANNA!
CAN I COME, TOO?
JUST TO WATCH

ALL RIGHT SINCE YOU'LL BE ON SOMEDAY SOON, TOO.
YOU CAN LEARN FROM WATCHING!



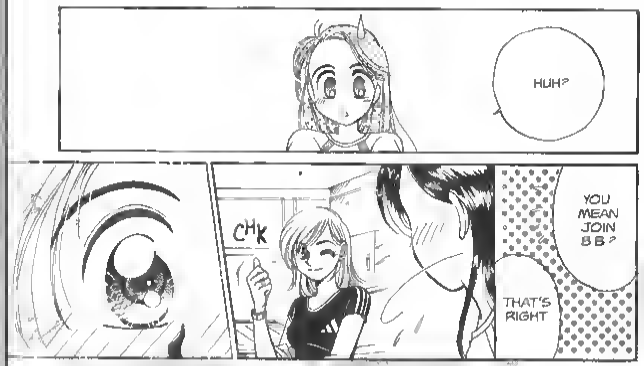
OH, MS ANNA
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY.
OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL
OKINA

YOU'RE SO EXCITED!
PYOKO
CESAR!
YOU'RE BACK?

I WANT TO SING BETTER! DANCE BETTER!
I'M GOING TO WORK HARDER!
FOR MY OWN SAKE...!

WOOOH
CLIK
I WANT TO BATHE IN THE SPOTLIGHT!
ON A BIGGER STAGE..
EVEN THOUGH TODAY I CAN ONLY SIT AND WATCH FROM THE CORNER.
AND THEN...
SOMEDAY I'LL STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT STAGE...

OTV BROADCASTING STUDIO
WOW... SO THIS IS A TV STATION!
SUPER LOVERS.
BB WAVES AND DA PUMP, WE'RE GOING TO CAMERA NOW!

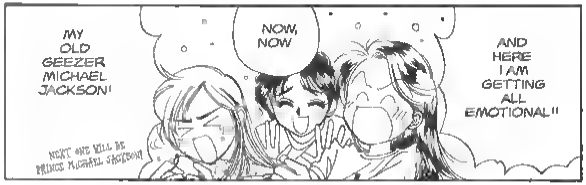

HUH?
CHK
YOU MEAN JOIN BB?
THAT'S RIGHT

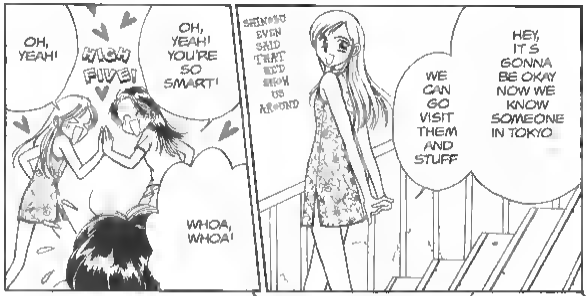
YIPPERS!
I'M JOINING BOOM², TOO!

PTTT
I'M GONNA BE A SINGER..!
A STAR!!
HELLO.
OH... P PRINCIPAL!!
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN THEM STARTING NEXT WEEK?
BOOM!
BOOM!

OKINAWA
AIRI'S GONNA TO BE IN BOOM, TOO!
COOL! WORK OUT!
KEEEY! NO FAIR!
I WANTED TO TELL THAT!!
ISSA AND YOU GUYS, TOO!
AH. DEFINITELY.
NO WAY
OKINAWA GIFTS
CH CH

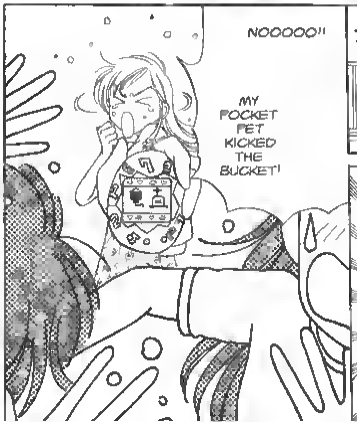
WE'LL SHOW YOU AROUND WHEN YOU COME TO TOKYO!
SEE YA!!
ISSA, WE'D BETTER GET GOING
OKAY
FILA

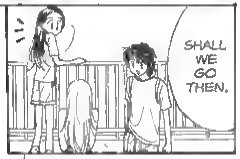

MY OLD GEEZER MICHAEL JACKSON!
NOW, NOW
AND HERE I AM GETTING ALL EMOTIONAL!!
NEXT ONE WILL BE PRINCE MICHAEL JACKSON!


OH, YEAH!
WOW FIVE!
OH, YEAH! YOU'RE SO SMART!
WHOA, WHOA!
SHIHOKO EVEN SAID THAT WE'D SEEM US AROUND
WE CAN GO VISIT THEM AND STUFF
HEY, IT'S GONNA BE OKAY NOW WE KNOW SOMEONE IN TOKYO

IT'S FOR THEIR DEBUT
THE GUYS IN DA PUMP DIDN'T GO JUST FOR FUN!
WE HAVE TO WORK HARD, TOO...
SO WE CAN GO TO TOKYO!

I HAD SO MUCH TO SAY BUT MY HEART'S SO FULL I CAN'T SAY A THING
TODAY, TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THEIR MAJOR DEBUT, DA PUMP FLEW TO TOKYO.

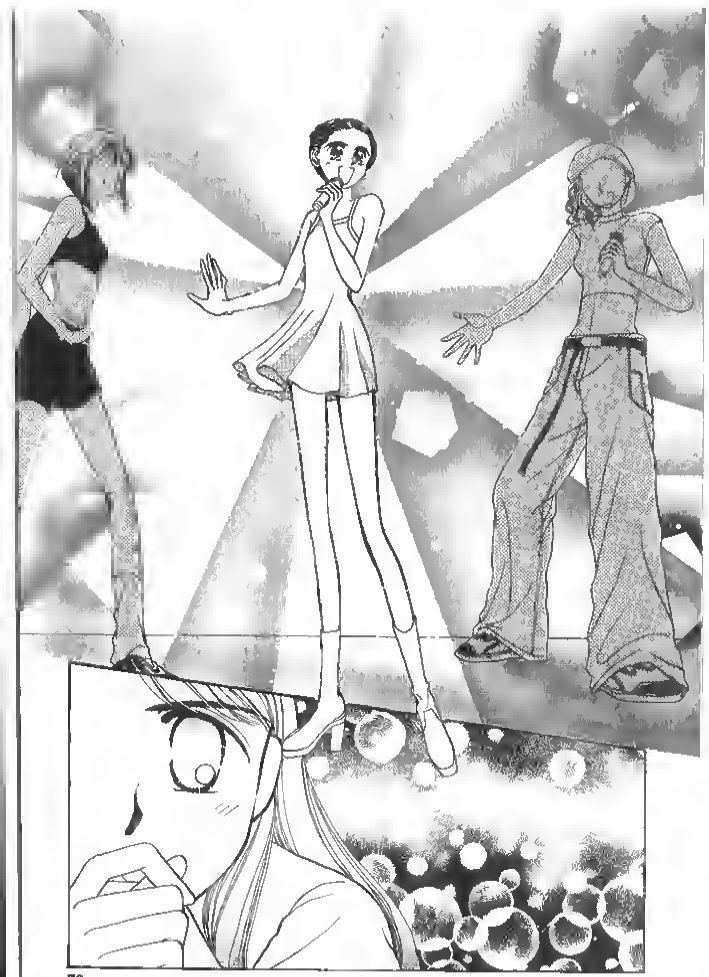

NOOOOO!!
MY POCKET PET KICKED THE BUCKET!


SHALL WE GO THEN.

YO.. !?

TWO WEEKS LATER...
KATHUMP
KATHUMP
ISHIKAWA
GAAAAH!
BOO!
HEY
IT'S STARTING
BOOM! BOOM!
IT'S GONNA BE YOUR FIRST TIME ON TV
I'M GETTING NERVOUS, TOO
STOP THAT! I'M REALLY NERVOUS

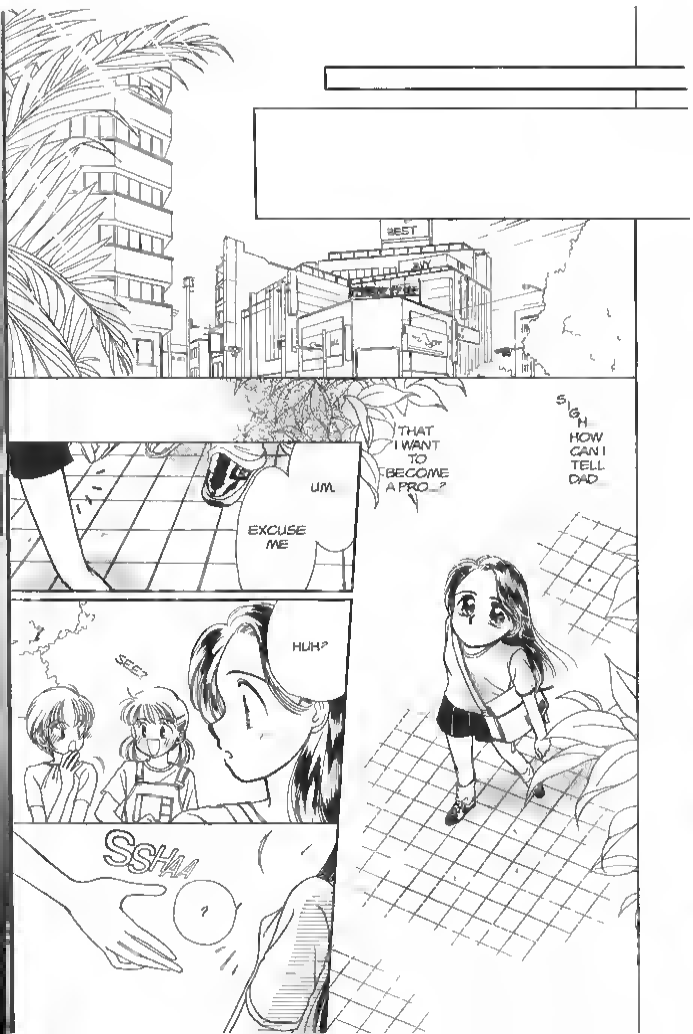
SOMEDAY I'LL GO TO TOKYO, TOO
TO SING..!!
SO WE'LL MEET AGAIN ISSA!
WAIT UP!
HEY AIRI, DON'T BE A SLOWPOKE
NOW...
IT'S LESSONS AND MORE LESSONS ♬
YEAH!
pitch.



"ATHUMP
KATHUMP
OH MY
SIS IS ON TV!!
IT'S SIS!!
OWCH!
B.B WAVES
AMAZING!!
IT'S NOT A DREAM
AND NOW I'M THERE
TWO MONTHS AGO I WAS JUST WATCHING BOOM².

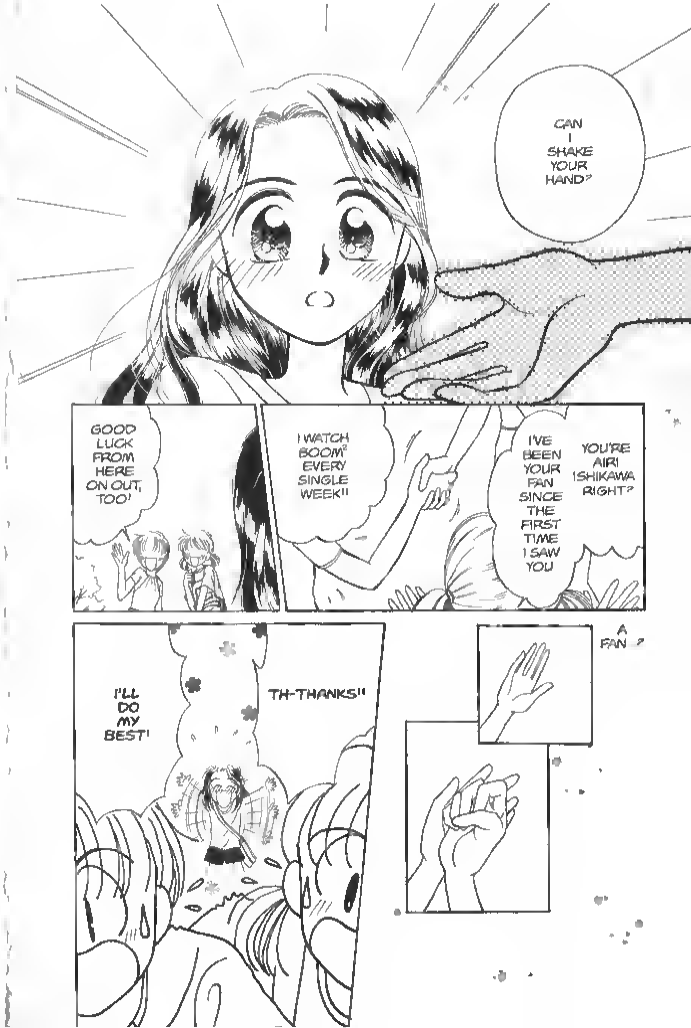
GOING TO ACTORS FOR LESSONS!
ME, TOO.
I JUST CAN'T STAY STILL!!
BECAUSE I WANT TO SING SO MUCH, DANCE SO MUCH...
I RECORDED IT ON VIDEO TOO, BUT...
OH! DAD, WERE YOU ABLE TO WATCH TV TODAY?
I'M HOME

OH NO! I MISSED THAT NOTE!!
I SHOULD HAVE SUNG THIS PART LOUDER.
DONE MORE DANCING TOO.
AAGH! THIS IS A GOOD PART AND I'M LOOKING DOWN!
I SHOULD BE FACING FORWARD!!
ARE'NT YOU GOING TO WATCH ANYMORE?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING AIR?
SWSH


BEST
UM.
EXCUSE ME
THAT I WANT TO BECOME A PRO...?
SIGH
HOW CAN I TELL DAD
HUH?
SEE?
SSHAA

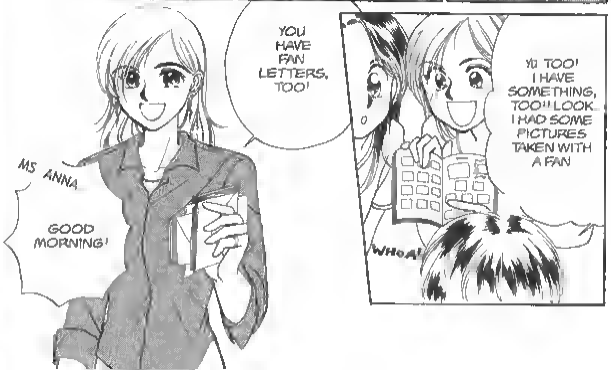
DON'T LET THIS GET TO YOUR HEAD AND START THINKING ABOUT TOKYO
I DON'T MIND OKINAWA TV, BUT...
AIRI..
YOU DO REMEMBER OUR PROMISE, DON'T YOU.
FWAP
NOT GOING TO TOKYO..
WAS THE CONDITION FOR ATTENDING ACTORS.
BUT I...
..I KNOW, DAD

OKINAWA ACTORS
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
YES.
SO THESE ARE THE KIDS!

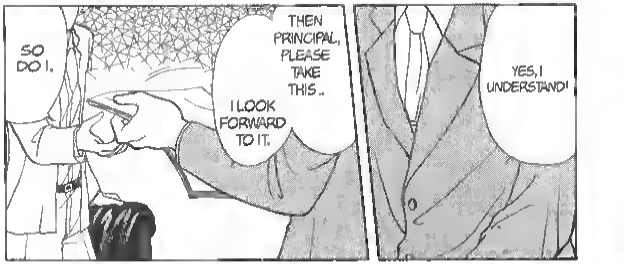

CAN I SHAKE YOUR HAND?
GOOD LUCK FROM HERE ON OUT, TOO!
I WATCH BOOM! EVERY SINGLE WEEK!!
I'VE BEEN YOUR FAN SINCE THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU
YOU'RE AIR! ISHIKAWA RIGHT?
A FAN?
I'LL DO MY BEST!
TH-THANKS!!

NHK SATELLITE NO. 2 "MUSIC JUMP"
PROPOSAL
OH!
WOMP!

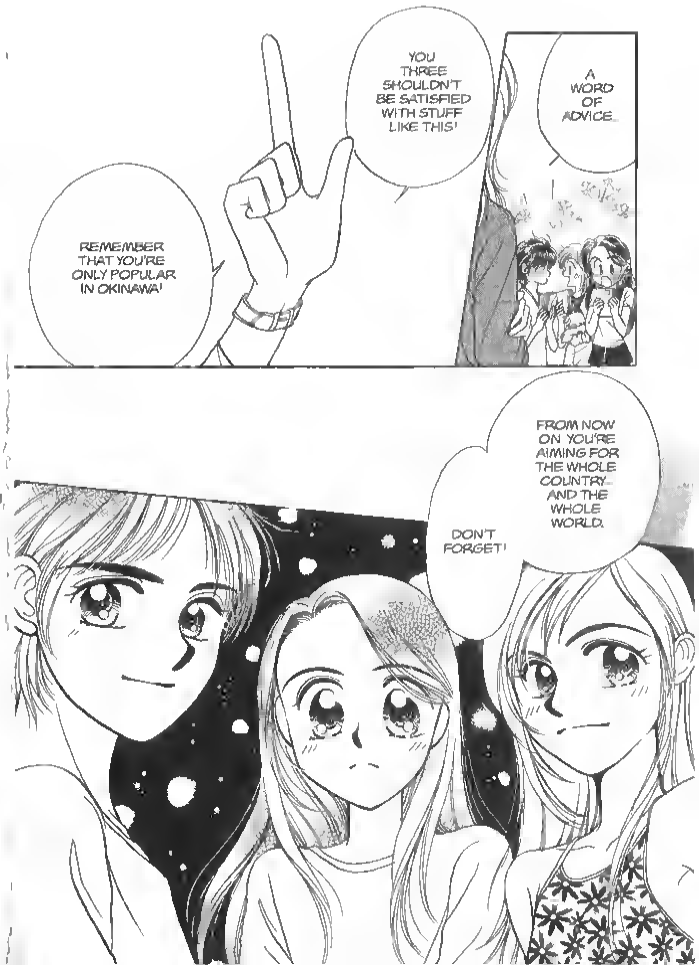
COOL!
HEY YUMI, GUESS WHAT! I GOT ASKED TO SHAKE SOMEONE'S HAND TODAY!!
WHO WAS THAT?
?
I'M SORRY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT MS ISHIKAWA


MS ANNA
GOOD MORNING!
YOU HAVE FAN LETTERS, TOO!
YU TOO! I HAVE SOMETHING, TOO! LOOK. I HAD SOME PICTURES TAKEN WITH A FAN
WHOA!

THEY'LL BE STARS IN THE FUTURE
THEY'RE THAT TALENTED
SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO NURTURE THEM CAREFULLY.


SO DO I.
THEN PRINCIPAL, PLEASE TAKE THIS..
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
YES, I UNDERSTAND!

FIRST TIME...
IN THE P-PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE...
SO NERVOUS...
GOOD, THEN COME TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE! HE'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU
HUH?
KATHUMP
KATHUMP
I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER BUT... DUNNO
DOES HE MEAN THE NHK ON TV?
WHAT...!?
WE'VE CONFIRMED AN NHK SATELLITE AIRING OF A PROGRAM WITH YOU AND THE B.B WAVES.


A WORD OF ADVICE...
YOU THREE SHOULDN'T BE SATISFIED WITH STUFF LIKE THIS!
REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE ONLY POPULAR IN OKINAWA!
FROM NOW ON YOU'RE AIMING FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY... AND THE WHOLE WORLD.
DON'T FORGET!

AWESOME_!!
WE'RE GONNA BE ON NATIONAL TELEVISION_!?
T-TOKYO...!?
WHA?
AND ANOTHER THING, THE SHOW WILL START RECORDING NEXT MONTH, EVERY WEEKEND AT THE TOKYO NHK.
THE PROGRAM IS CALLED MUSIC JUMP.

THE PROGRAM WILL BE AIRED BY SATELLITE SO,
OF COURSE IT WILL BE A NATIONWIDE BROADCAST.
NATIONWIDE BROADCAST!!

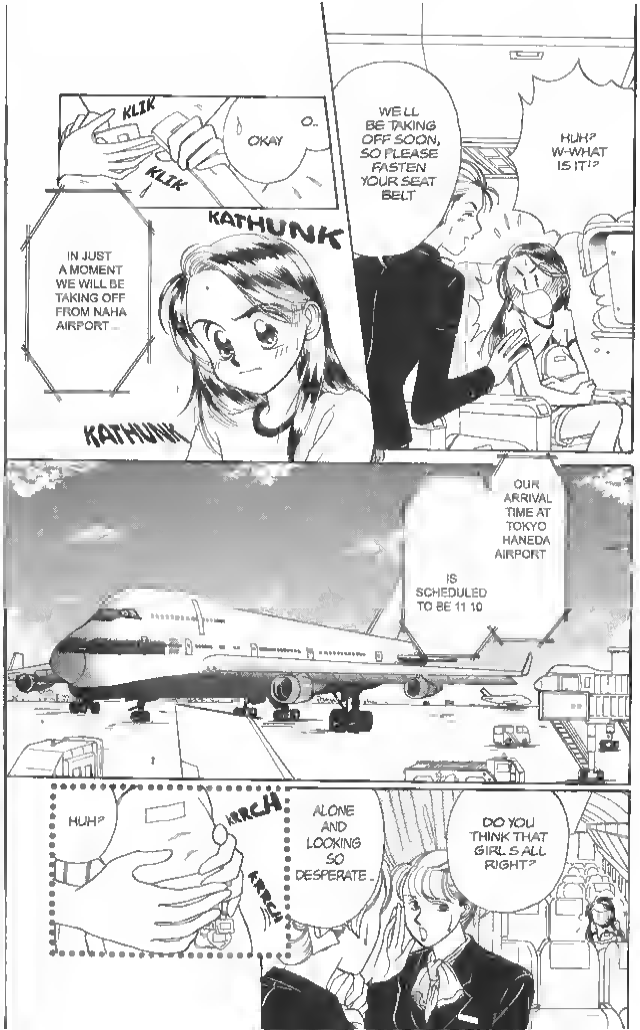
I CLEARLY REJECTED ANY TALK OF YOU GOING TO TOKYO!
AND I TOLD HIM YOU'D HAVE TO QUIT ACTORS, TOO!!
STOP CHASING AFTER SILLY DREAMS!!
AND LIVE IN OKINAWA YOU'LL BE HAPPY
YOU SHOULD GO TO A NORMAL SCHOOL, HAVE A NORMAL JOB,
WHY!? HOW WOULD YOU BE SO CRUEL!?
BAM!
WHAT'S SILLY ABOUT MY DREAMS!!
AND BESIDES...
FOR THE FIRST TIME I REALIZED HOW MUCH I LOVE TO SING.
I LEARNED SO MUCH AT ACTORS.

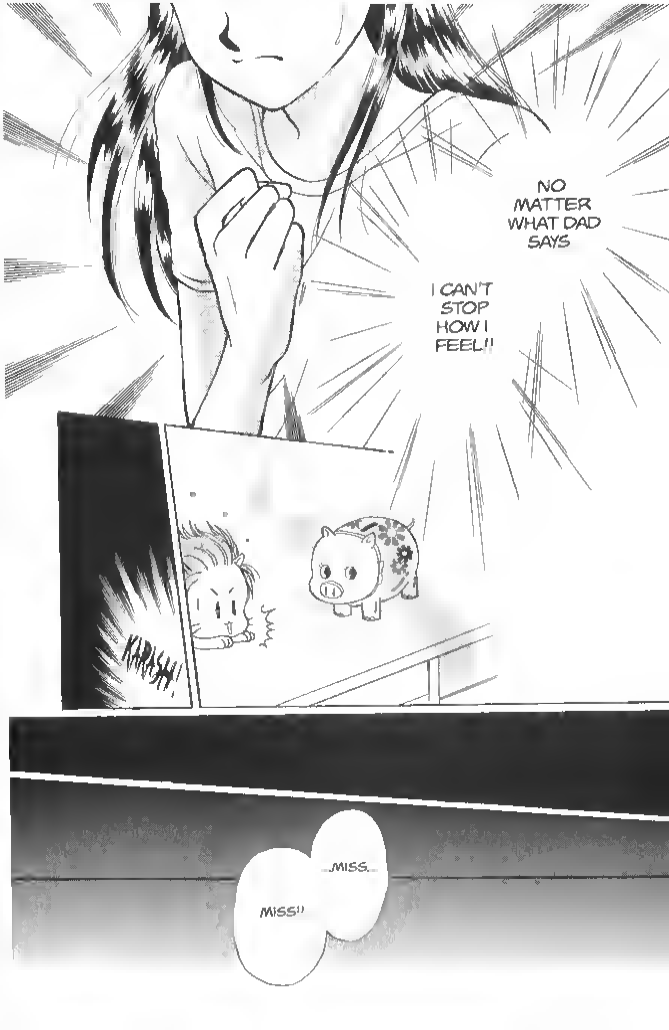
ISHIKAWA
AIRI
SIT DOWN HERE!
I'M HO...
I GOT A CALL CAME FROM PRINCIPAL MAKINO...
JUST NOW..
...

HOW CAN I GET DAD TO LET ME GO?
GOING TO TOKYO...

I'LL NEVER GIVE THEM UP!!
IT'S NOT STUPID...
MY DREAMS AREN'T SILLY!!
AIRI!!
WHATCHA GONNA DO, AIRI?
SLAM!
AIRI

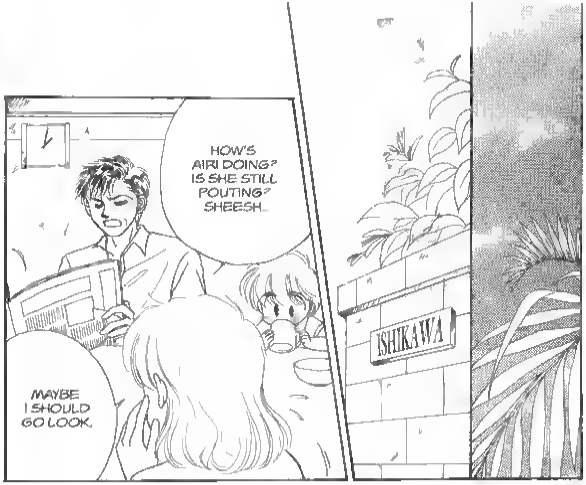
BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD, I STILL WANT TO BE A SINGER!!
AND TO DO THAT I HAVE TO GO TO TOKYO!!
I KNOW THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN NEVER BECOME ONE NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY!!
I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO BECOME A PRO!
BUT... BOTH MS. ANNA AND THE PRINCIPAL AGREE!!
THAT I HAVE TALENT...
YOU'RE COMPLETELY MISTAKEN IF YOU THINK JUST ANYONE CAN BECOME A STAR!!
DON'T YOU GET COCKY JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A LITTLE FAMOUS IN OKINAWA!
BAM
WHY DON'T YOU GO STUDY!!
STOP BEING SO STUPID,
YOU'LL JUST END UP FAILING AND COMING HOME IN TEARS!!
SO YOU'LL LET THEM SWEET TALK YOU INTO GOING TO TOKYO,


KLIK
KLIK
OKAY
O..
KATHUNK
IN JUST A MOMENT WE WILL BE TAKING OFF FROM NAHA AIRPORT...
KATHUNK
WE'LL BE TAKING OFF SOON, SO PLEASE FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT
HUH? W-WHAT IS IT!?
OUR ARRIVAL TIME AT TOKYO HANEDA AIRPORT IS SCHEDULED TO BE 11 10
HUH?
KRCH
KRCH
ALONE AND LOOKING SO DESPERATE...
DO YOU THINK THAT GIRL'S ALL RIGHT?

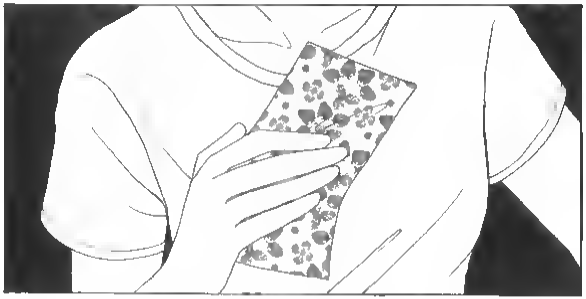

NO MATTER WHAT DAD SAYS
I CAN'T STOP HOW I FEEL!!
KARASH!
...MISS...
MISS!!

BUT I CAN'T THROW AWAY MY DREAM.
HOW CAN I GIVE IT UP WHEN MY CHANCE IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME?
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WAS SCARED
GOING ALONE TO TOKYO, WHERE I'VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE I'M STILL SHAKING.
I'M IN LOVE WITH SINGING AND DANCING...
EVER SINCE JOINING ACTORS...
WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING TO STAY ONCE YOU GET TO TOKYO?
BY THE WAY...

PWAAH.
STUPID!! WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN!!
STUPID'S A BIT HARSH! I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
YOU'RE QUITE A HANDFUL, YOU KNOW.
THEN DON'T FOLLOW ME
JUST KIDDING.
I WON'T GO HOME TO OKINAWA UNTIL DAD AGREES!
I KNEW THAT PARENT AND CHILD ARE SO MUCH ALIKE, YOU'RE BOTH STUBBORN
SO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I HAD TO COME, RIGHT?


HOW'S AIRI DOING? IS SHE STILL POUTING? SHEESH...
ISHIKAWA
MAYBE I SHOULD GO LOOK.

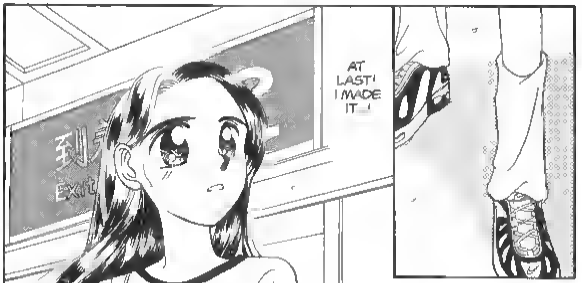
SWEETY, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED!!
STOMP
STOMP!

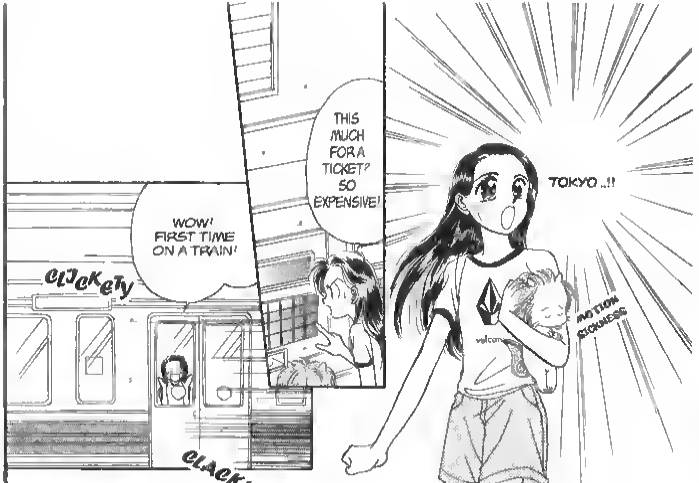


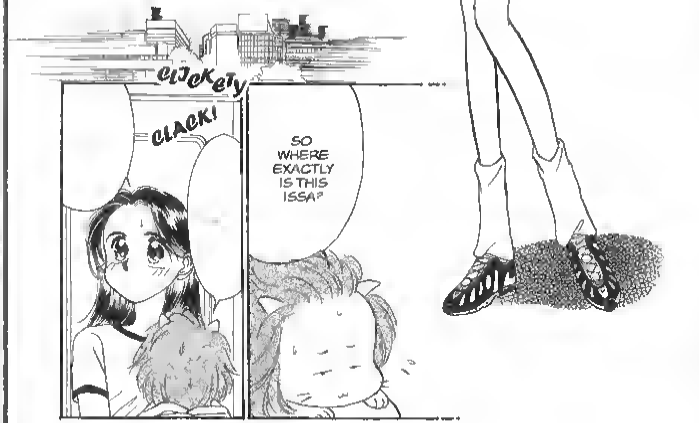
A FRIEND IN TOKYO
I ONLY HAVE ISSA AND THE GANG
SHE TALKS TO HERSELF!
SEEMS MORE DANGEROUS THAN STRANGE...
HEY! SIT STILL!

I WON'T GO BACK TILL THEY REALIZE THAT I'M REALLY SERIOUS!!
VROOOM...

I'M NOT COMING HOME TILL DAD SAYS I CAN GO TO TOKYO AND ATTEND ACTORS SCHOOL
AIRI
AND SHE SMASHED HER PRECIOUS PIGGY BANK!
AIRI LEFT THIS NOTE..!!
A AIRI!!


AT LAST! I MADE IT!


WOW! FIRST TIME ON A TRAIN!
CLICKETY
CLACK!
THIS MUCH FOR A TICKET? SO EXPENSIVE!
TOKYO..!!
MOTION SICKNESS

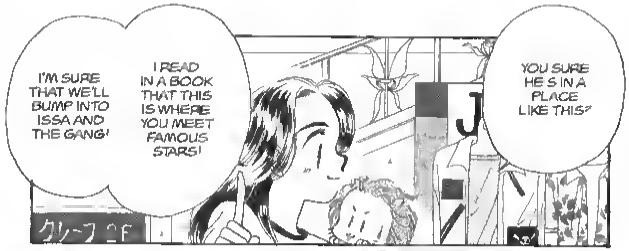

CLICKETY
CLACK!
SO WHERE EXACTLY IS THIS ISSA?

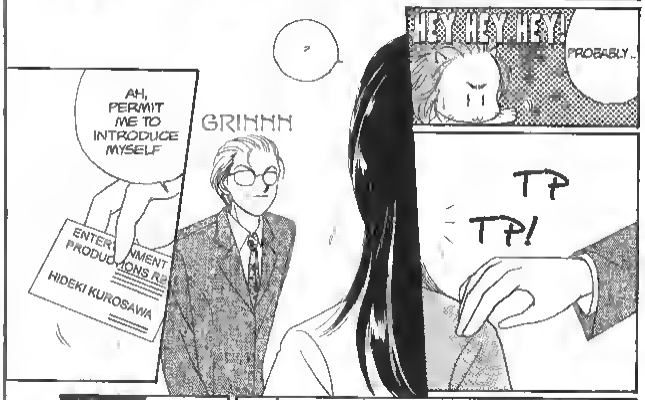
DON'T TELL ME YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME WITHOUT EVEN GETTING ANY ADDRESSES...?
GULP!
E-EVERYTHING'S OKAY!! I KNOW A PLACE WHERE WE CAN DEFINITELY MEET!!

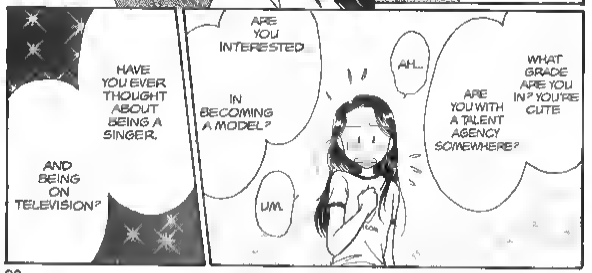
JR
原宿
HARAJUKU

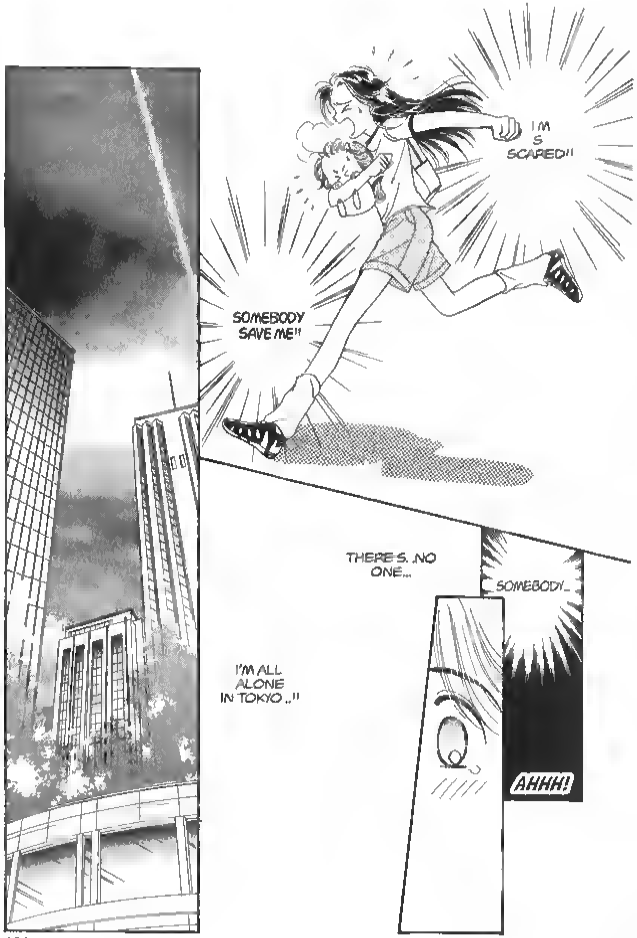
AND IN SCHOOL UNIFORM EVEN ON A SUNDAY
I WONDER IF THEY'RE ALL GOING HOME FROM CLUB?

SO MANY PEOPLE!


I'M SURE THAT WE'LL BUMP INTO ISSA AND THE GANG!
I READ IN A BOOK THAT THIS IS WHERE YOU MEET FAMOUS STARS!
YOU SURE HE'S IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?


HEY HEY HEY!
PROBABLY...
AH, PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF
GRIHHH
HIDEKI KUROSAWA
TP
TP!


HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEING A SINGER,
AND BEING ON TELEVISION?
ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN BECOMING A MODEL?
UM.
AH...
ARE YOU WITH A TALENT AGENCY SOMEWHERE?
WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN? YOU'RE CUTE


I'M S SCARED!!
SOMEBODY SAVE ME!!
I'M ALL ALONE IN TOKYO..!!
THERE'S NO ONE...
SOMEBODY..
AHHH!

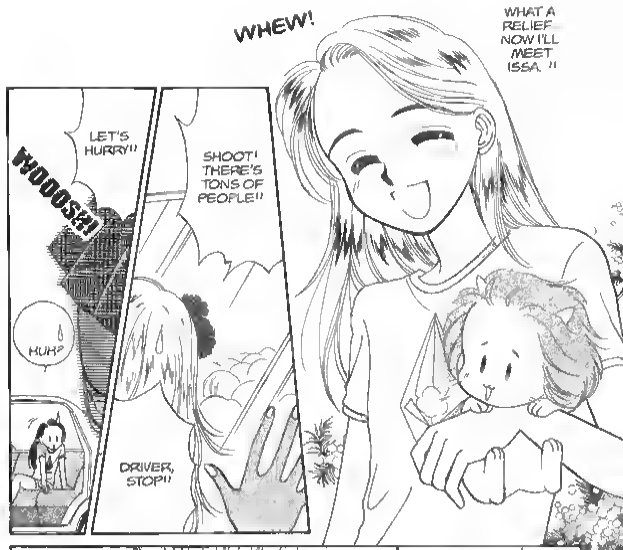
YOU KNOW.. A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU... YOU COULD BE A STAR!
WELL, SURE...
SINGING IS MY DREAM BUT..
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!!
BUT..
L... LET
AH!
OUR OFFICE IS JUST OVER THERE SO WHY NOT COME AND HEAR ME OUT?
PULLLL!
HEY, WAIT...
WOOSH!
CRASH
OWOWOW!?
? ? ?

CLICK!
HUH, WHEN!
OH, COME ON! I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE PICTURE OF HIM
IS THIS THE RIGHT TIME?
YOU'RE NOT THINKING.
I REALLY WANT THIS ♡
WHAT'S WRONG?
O-ONLY 30 YEN... LEFT...
I CAN'T HELP IT!!
WHAT THE HECK CAN YOU DO WITH 30 YEN!? YOU CAN'T EVEN GO HOME!? WH-WH WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO!?
I NEARLY FAINTED!

1
WRITE DOWN THE NUMBER OF THE CARD YOU WISH AND HAND IT TO THE RECEPTIONIST.
CARD & PHOTOS ¥350 PER PICTURE
AIRI, LOOK!
SMAK
SMAK!
I HAVE GOTTA GET AHOLD OF MYSELF!!
OOH! AVI
IT'S A PHOTO OF ISSA! SO HE CHANGED HIS HAIRSTYLE!
WOW! HE MUST BE POPULAR HERE TOO—
FOR THEM TO SELL PICTURES OF HIM
PRETTY AMAZING!
178

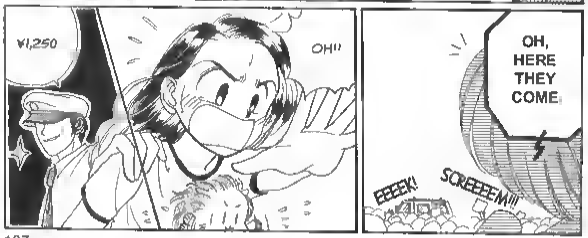
OH SORRY
IT'S OKAY
WHOMP!
HEY! IT'S ISSA!! I WANNA BUY THIS!
WHAT...? AM I GONNA DO...?
Y...
YUP!
YOU LIKE DA PUMP, TOO? THAT NUMBER..
TERUKO, WHAT'RE YOU DOING? LET'S GO
KAY
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO SEE PUMP TOO?
WHAT...!?
STILL A KID BUT SHE KNOWS WHAT'S GOOD!! ISN'T PUMP JUST TOO COOL?

YOU MEAN YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE!?
OF COURSE! ACTUALLY WE'RE PUMP'S GROUPIES
WE HAVE THEIR SCHEDULE DOWN SOLID, TOO!!
ON OUR WAY THERE RIGHT NOW
P- PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU!!
WOW
IN GRADESCHOOL AND TRYING TO BE A GROUPIE YOU'RE PRETTY HARD CORE
TAXI
SO WHO DO YOU LIKE?
NOT A GROUPIE, ACTUALLY...
OH, BUT ISSA'S MINE!! I HAD DIBS ON HIM FIRST!
I LIKE YUKINARI
YADDA
YADDA!

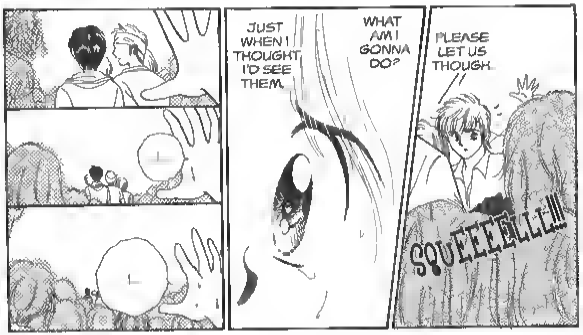

WHEW!
WHAT A RELIEF. NOW I'LL MEET ISSA. !!
WHOOSH!!
LET'S HURRY!!
SHOOT! THERE'S TONS OF PEOPLE!!
HUH?
DRIVER, STOP!!

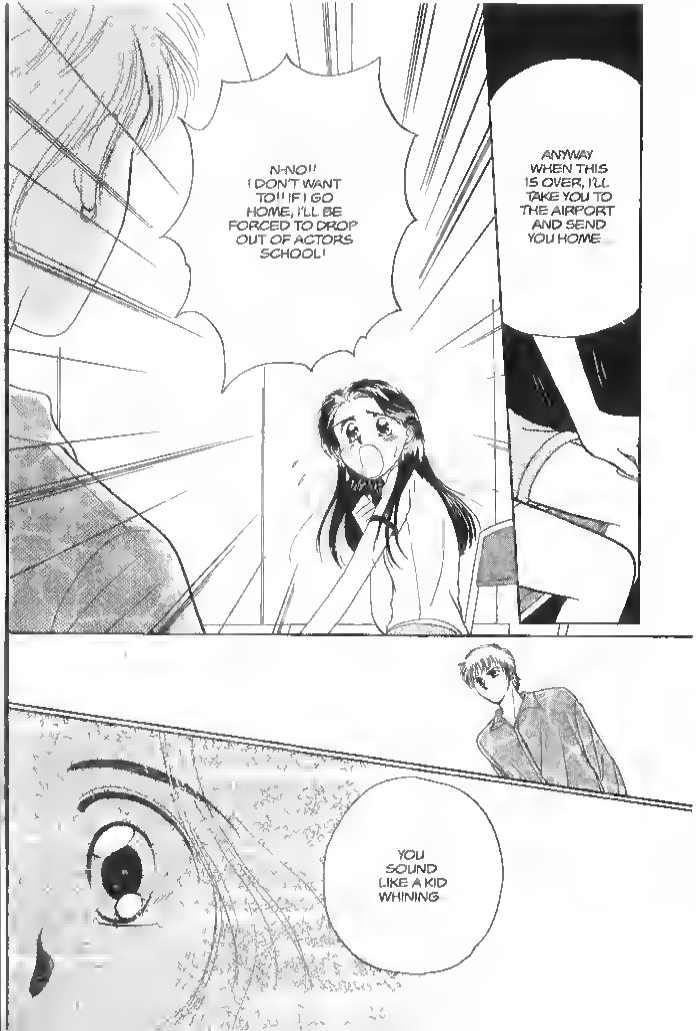
SO YOU HAFTA PAY UP!
CLOMP
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED TO COME ALONG
CLOMP!
SEE YA! ♡
AH, UM...
THE TAXI MONEY..

THE DREADED PARTY GIRLS OF TOKYO
THAT WILL BE ¥1,250
WOW, THE NUMBER OF GROUPIES HERE IS INCREDIBLE!
THIS IS A LIVE BROADCAST AT THE PACKED DEBUT OF DA PUMP!


¥1,250
OH!!

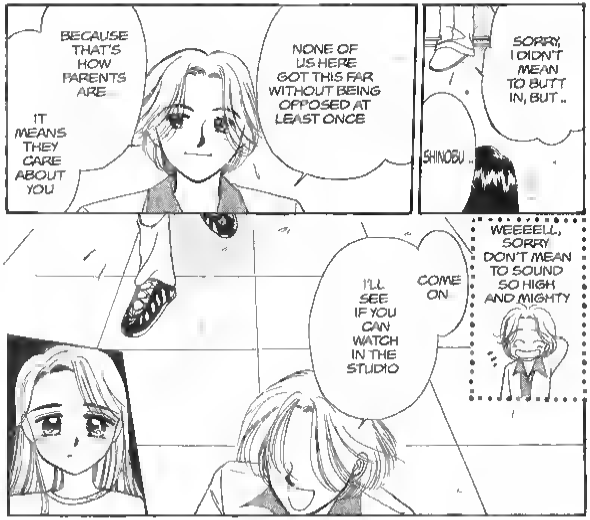
OH, HERE THEY COME.
EEEEK!
SCREEEEM!!!


JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D SEE THEM.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
PLEASE LET US THOUGH.
SQUEEE


N-NO!! I DON'T WANT TO!! IF I GO HOME, I'LL BE FORCED TO DROP OUT OF ACTORS SCHOOL!
ANYWAY WHEN THIS IS OVER, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE AIRPORT AND SEND YOU HOME.
YOU SOUND LIKE A KID WHINING

AIRI...
YOU
SAYS IT'S A TOKYO TV STATION
MORE AFTER THESE MESSAGES FROM OUR SPONSOR.
URK!
A-AIRI?
WHAT THE HECK?
GOOD THING WE MET.
YOU SURE PUSH THE ENVELOPE
VACANT ROOM
WAAAHHH! SNIF...

ISSA
YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND! YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY!
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN CONVINCE YOUR OWN PARENTS, YOU SURE AS HECK WON'T BE ABLE TO GO PRO
ISSA..
CHK
MEMBERS OF PUMP YOU'RE NEEDED ON STAGE!


BECAUSE THAT'S HOW PARENTS ARE...
IT MEANS THEY CARE ABOUT YOU
NONE OF US HERE GOT THIS FAR WITHOUT BEING OPPOSED AT LEAST ONCE
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO BUTT IN, BUT..
SHINOBU..
WEEEELL, SORRY DON'T MEAN TO SOUND SO HIGH AND MIGHTY
COME ON
I'LL SEE IF YOU CAN WATCH IN THE STUDIO

STUDIO
HEY ISSA
WASN'T THAT A LITTLE HARSH?

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY BECAME PRO EASILY...
ISSA AND THE GANG LOOK PRETTY COOL, HUH?
THEY WORRIED AND STRUGGLED TO GET THERE...
BUT ME...
HAVE I JUST BEEN RUNNING AWAY...!?

ON AIR
IT HAD TO BE...
BECAUSE AIRI'S GONNA TO BE A PRO TOO

FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I'VE FELT...
I HAVE TO TELL HIM.
WE'RE BOTH AIMING FOR THE WORLD, RIGHT...?

DEPARTURE ENTRANCE
出発口
I'LL TALK IT OVER WITH HIM.
MY DAD...
2
BUT IF HE STILL SAYS NO
AIRI, YOU'D BETTER GET GOING...
I'LL NEVER GET TO MEET WITH ISSA LIKE THIS EVER AGAIN..
EVER AGAIN...!!
BADUMP!
ISSA, I..

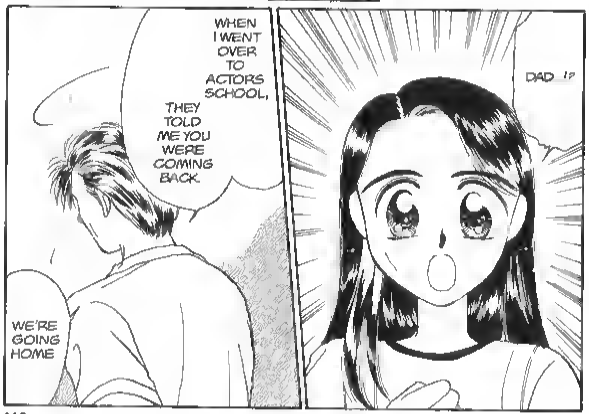
HEY! I GOT SOME SNACKS SOME FOR YOUR PET, TOO
WHAT IS THAT?
A CAT?
HAVE GOOD VISION...
Y-YOU CAN SEE HIM?
C'MON, YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP AND GO HOME. YOUR PET DOESN'T LOOK TOO GOOD, EITHER.
THE AIR IN TOKYO IS PRETTY BAD SO...

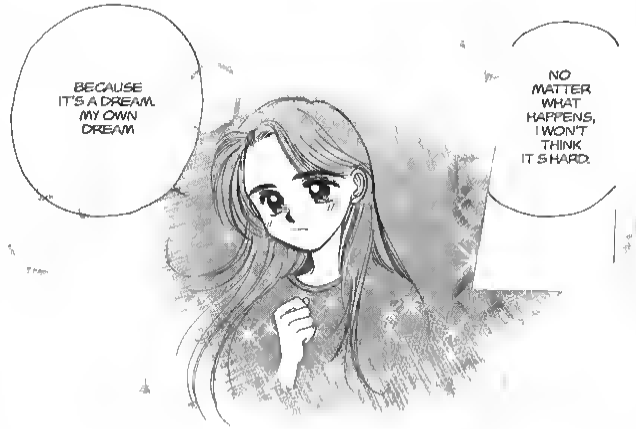
GASP! IT'S THAT GIRL AGAIN!
OF COURSE IT'S TRUE
IF THAT'S REALLY TRUE..

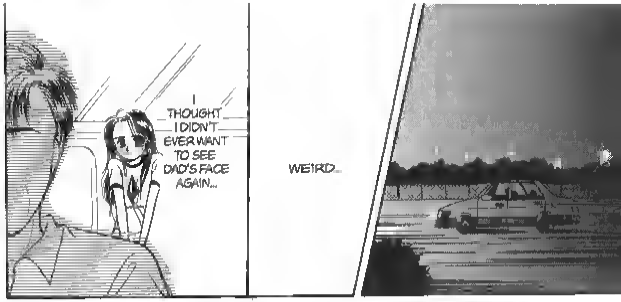
THEN FOR SURE...
WE'LL MEET AGAIN...

HEY CESAR.
REMEMBER ONCE YOU SAID THAT PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE YOU WILL BECOME BIG STARS ONE DAY...

ISSA...
OKINA

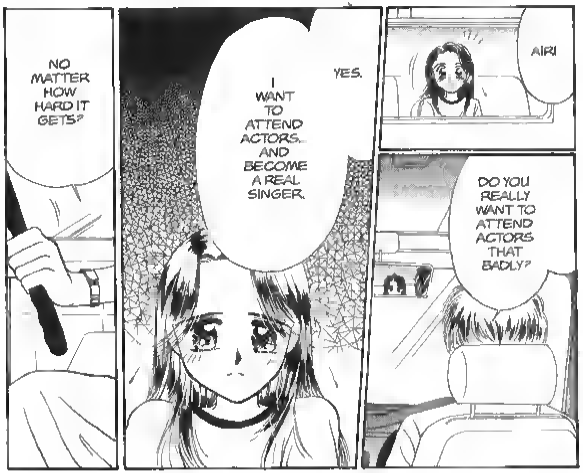

WHEN I WENT OVER TO ACTORS SCHOOL,
THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING BACK.
WE'RE GOING HOME
DAD !?


BECAUSE IT'S A DREAM. MY OWN DREAM
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WON'T THINK IT'S HARD.

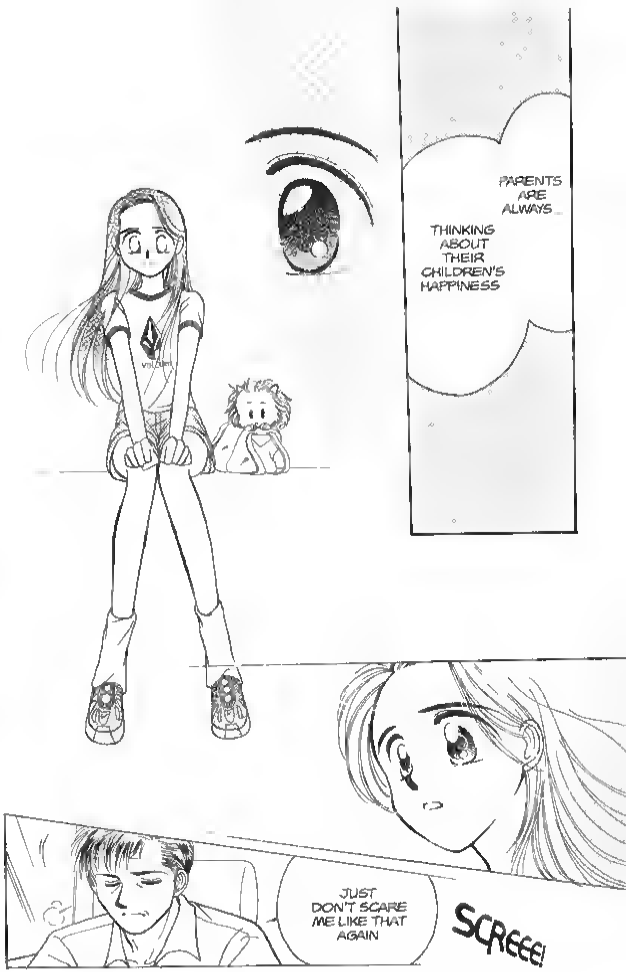

I THOUGHT I DIDN'T EVER WANT TO SEE DAD'S FACE AGAIN...
WEIRD...

I FEEL SO RELIEVED...
NOW THAT I'M HOME SAFE...

I SEE...
AIRI
JUST DON'T FORGET THIS

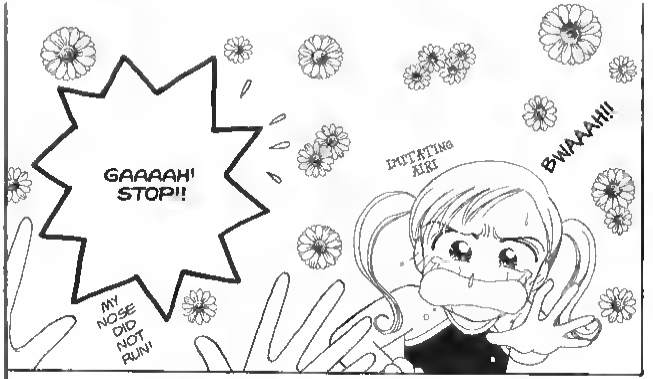

NO MATTER HOW HARD IT GETS?
YES.
I WANT TO ATTEND ACTORS... AND BECOME A REAL SINGER.
AIRI
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO ATTEND ACTORS THAT BADLY?

AND DON'T GIVE UP ALONG THE WAY

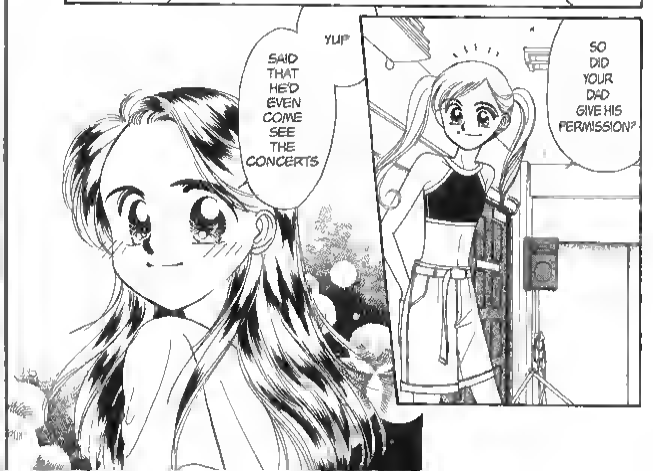

PARENTS ARE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN'S HAPPINESS
JUST DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT AGAIN
SCREEE!

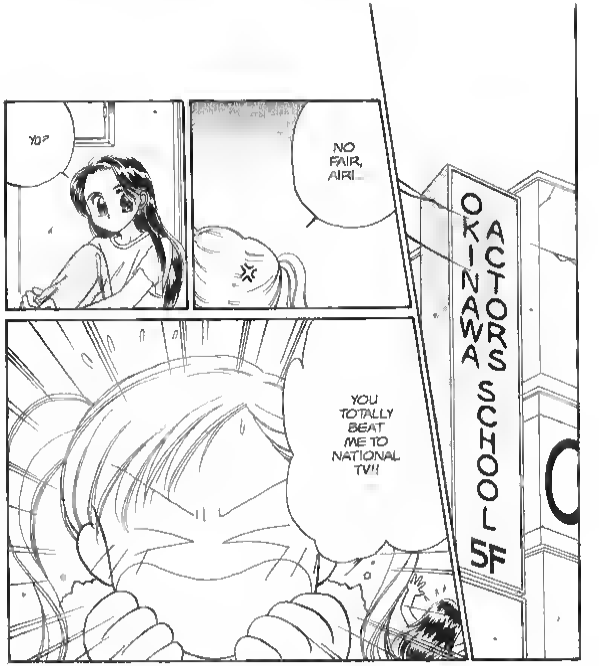
AT THAT MOMENT...

I FELT THAT I HAD FINALLY GROWN UP...



YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GO TO TOKYO EVERY WEEK FOR THE TV RECORDINGS
IF YOU'D TOLD ME I WOULD HAVE COME ALONG
AND SUDDENLY IT'S AN EXTREME CLOSE UP OF AIRI!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT! THERE I WAS WATCHING PUMP ON TV...



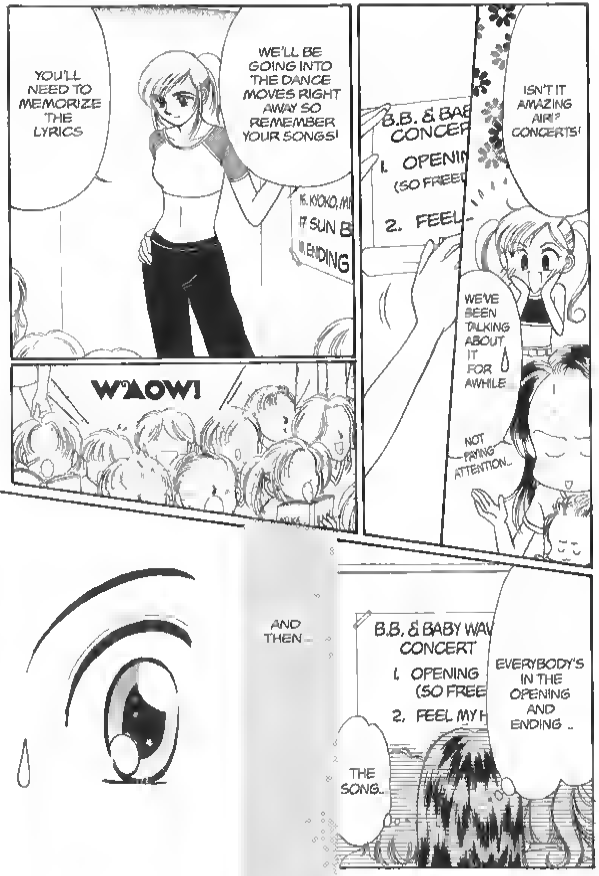


TO EVERYONE WHO WAS INVOLVED AND HELPED OUT WITH RESEARCH AND INFORMATION, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

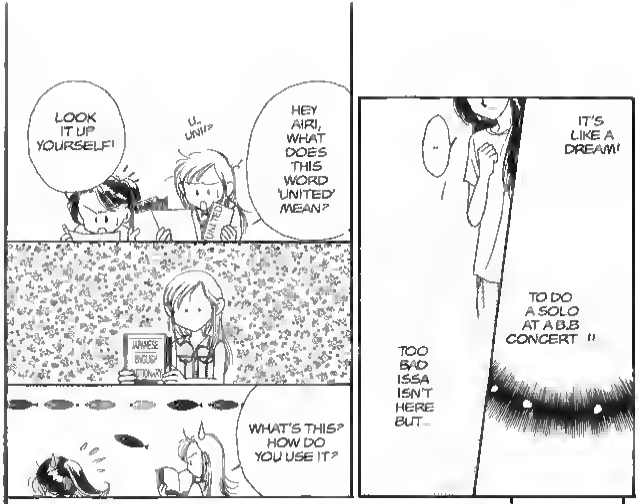
OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL SHOJI MAKINO, MS. ANNA MAKINO, ALL THE STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILY MEMBERS, THE STAFF OF MUSIC JUMP, EVERYONE AT RISING PRODUCTIONS, MEMBERS OF DA PUMP, MEMBERS OF FOLDER, EVERYONE AT CIAO EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT & UKKI KATO, MATSUYAMA, INAMI, SHIDA MOMOHARA MAKISHII, BANJI AND MR. HAGI (ANIKI).

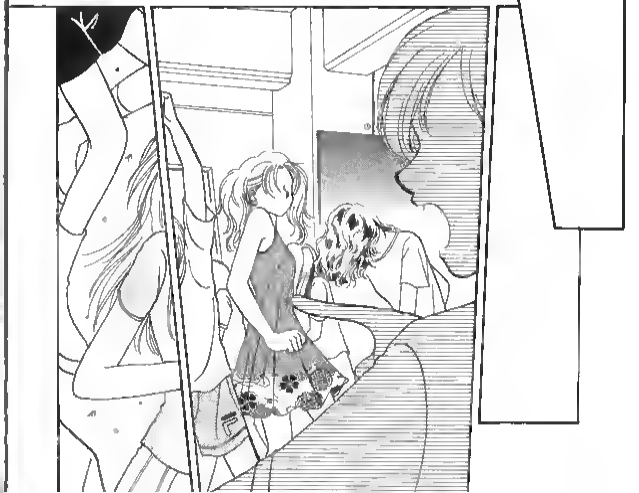
THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AMUSE, SAI, AVEX AND TO MANY, MANY OTHERS I GIVE MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE! (LOVE~!) THANK YOU VERY MUCH (HERE'S TO FUTURE ENDEAVORS TOGETHER)

AND TO ALL MY READERS, THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!!


YOU'LL NEED TO MEMORIZE THE LYRICS
WE'LL BE GOING INTO THE DANCE MOVES RIGHT AWAY SO REMEMBER YOUR SONGS!
16. KIOKO, MI
17 SUN B
18 ENDING
W"AOW!
B.B. & BAB
CONCER
1. OPENIN
(SO FREE
2. FEEL
ISN'T IT AMAZING AIR? CONCERTS!
WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT FOR AWHILE..
NOT PAYING ATTENTION..
AND THEN..
B.B. & BABY WAV
CONCERT
1. OPENING
(SO FREE
2. FEEL MY H
THE SONG..
EVERYBODY'S IN THE OPENING AND ENDING..

I'M GOING TO ANNOUNCE THE SONGS FOR THE CONCERT!!
MEMBERS OF B.B AND BABY WAVES GATHER 'ROUND!
GLUNK
MS. ANNA! WHAT'S A CONCERT?
OH! WOW!
I FORGOT, IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME ISN'T IT, YO?
AT ACTORS, WE GIVE CONCERTS FOUR TIMES A YEAR.
REAL CONCERTS WITH A LIVE AUDIENCE

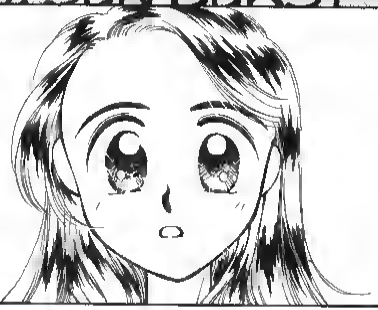


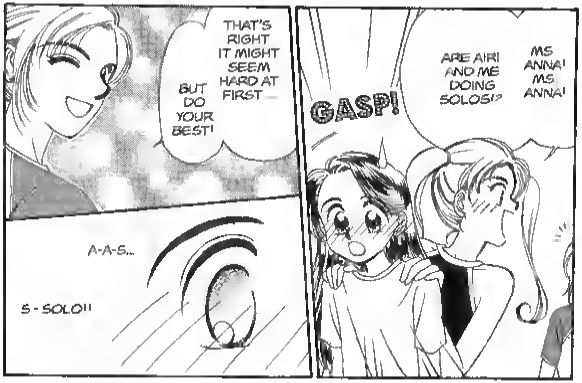


5. YŪ YAMADA (SOLO

6. AIRI ISHIKAWA (SO

7. SUN BURST – JAG



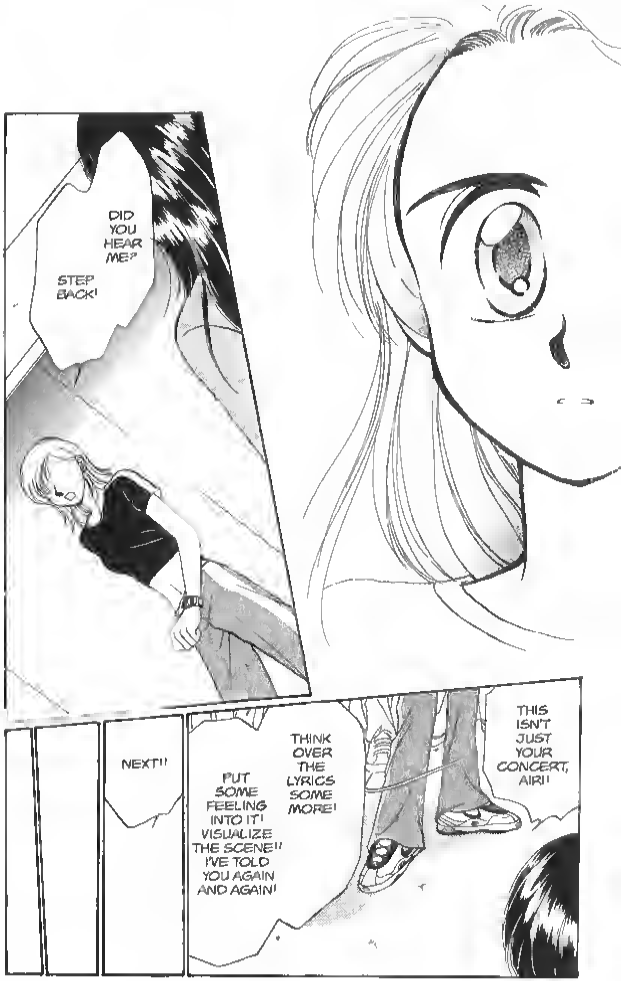


GASP!
ULP!
SQUEEZE
EVERYONE'S OVERWHELMED...!!
THEY'RE ALL TRANSFORMED BY YO'S SONG...!!

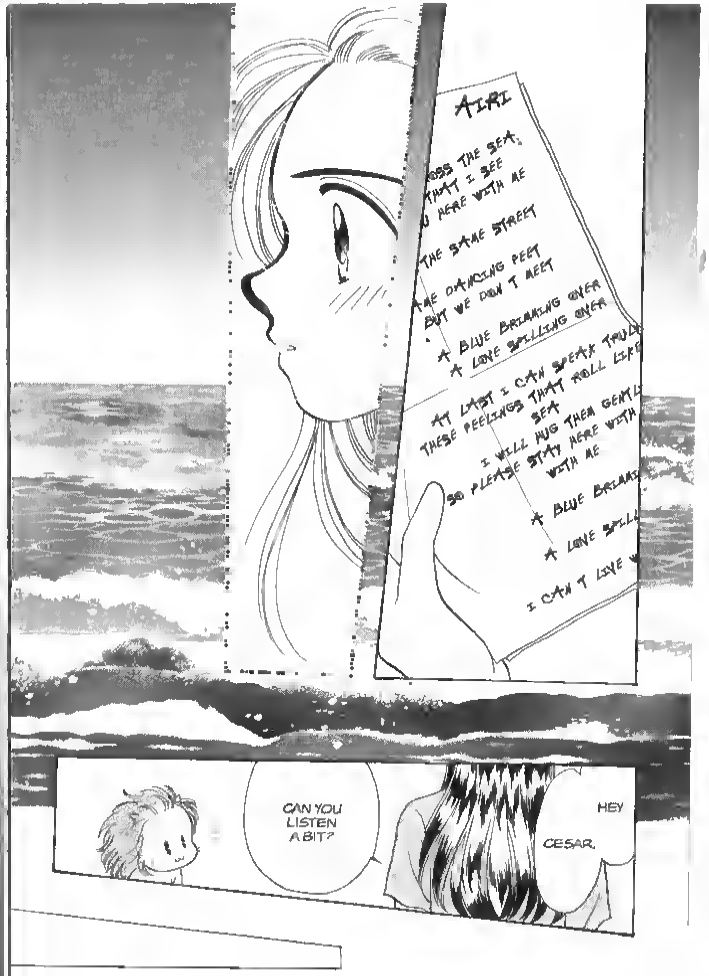
SHEESH
OH, ME!?
HUH?
LOOK! LOOK! HANDS!
YO!!
OKAY NEXT, YO,
YOUR SONG
23

DON'T RUSH!! RIDE THE RHYTHM!!
PUT SOME FEELING INTO IT!!
I HAVE TO BE AS GOOD AS YU !!
I HAVE TO TRANSFORM EVERYONE LIKE YU !!
OH... ONE MORE TIME...
STEP BACK..
NEXT!!
THINK!
YOU'RE SINGING ABOUT THE TENDER FEELINGS OF A GIRL IN LOVE, AREN'T YOU?
YOU CAN'T SING WITH BRUTE FORCE!
PUF!
PUF!

BOMP! BOMP!
NEXT, AIRI!
I DIDN'T REALIZE
YU HAS SUCH TALENT...!!
CLAP!
AIRI!! AGAIN!
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THE LYRICS!?
YOU CAN'T PUT YOURSELF ACROSS SINGING LIKE THAT!!


THIS ISN'T JUST YOUR CONCERT, AIRI!
THINK OVER THE LYRICS SOME MORE!
PUT SOME FEELING INTO IT! VISUALIZE THE SCENE!! I'VE TOLD YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN!
NEXT!!
DID YOU HEAR ME?
STEP BACK!

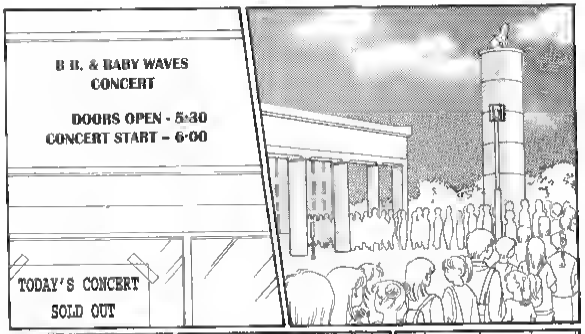
FWOOOOSH...
AIRI LET'S GO HOME
I DON'T GET IT... I JUST DON'T GET IT!!
WHY DIDN'T IT WORK!? I'M SINGING AS HARD AS I CAN, LIKE YO—
...

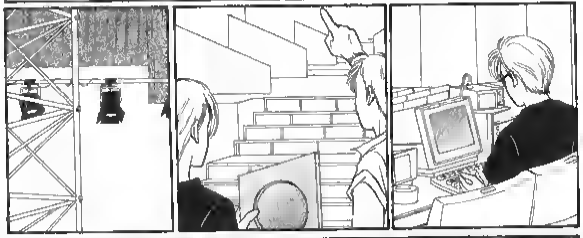

AIRI
CAN YOU LISTEN A BIT?
HEY CESAR,

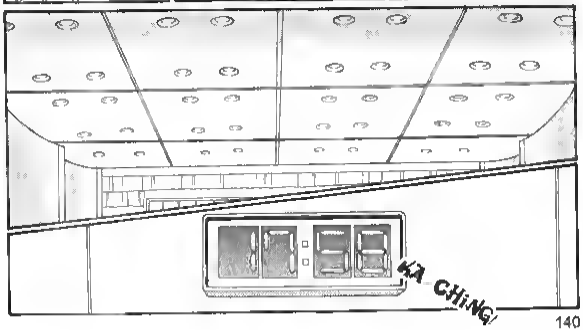
I REMEMBER THIS HAPPENED BEFORE
THAT TIME ISSA WAS HERE
AND HE CHEERED ME UP
I WISH YOU WERE HERE! TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO
ISSA
RUMMAGE
THIS OCEAN IT REACHES ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO DOESN'T IT

GO BLAST THEM WITH 100% OF YOUR ENERGY!!
IT'S STARTING!!
VACANT ROO
NO ENTRY
GO LIVE IT TO THE FULLEST!!

YEAH!!
GO GO GO!
BADUMP
BADUMP!


B.B. & BABY WAVES
CONCERT
DOORS OPEN - 5:30
CONCERT START - 6:00
TODAY'S CONCERT
SOLD OUT



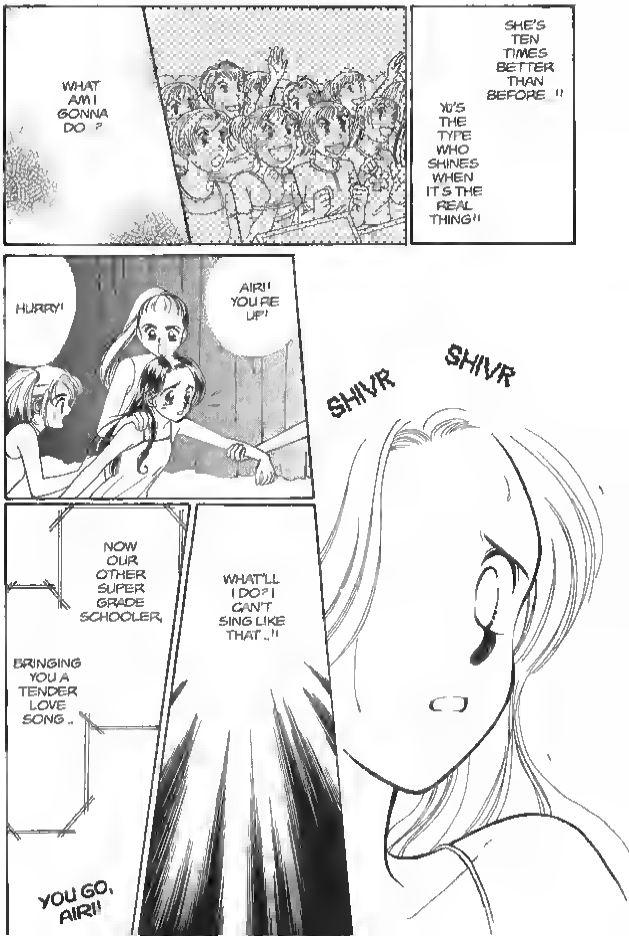

KA CHING!

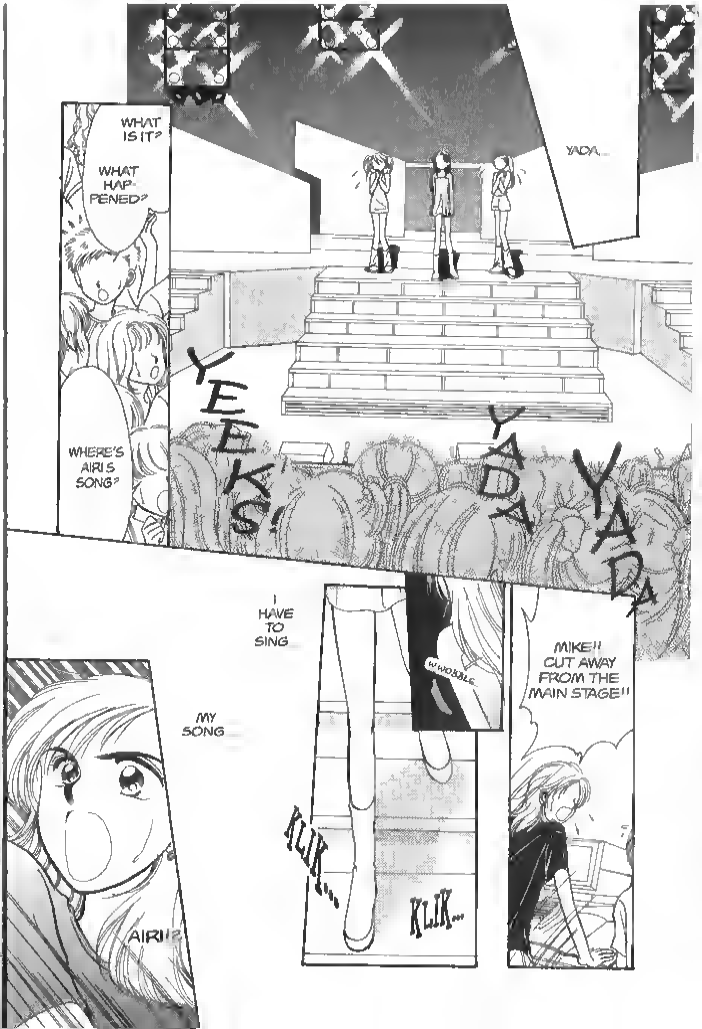
B.B
WA
& BAR
VES
MMMM
KARRR!!

YO !!
CRRR
ALLLRIIIGHT!!
GO!
GO YU,

NEXT UP, YOU'VE SEEN HER IN BOOM², OUR SUPER-GRADE-SCHOOLER!!
WITH HER FIRST SOLO – YO YAMADA!!
POZ

WHAT'LL I DO? WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON, THE MUSIC STARTS...
AIRI ISHIKAWA!!
BWOOSH!
THE MUSIC
WHAT !?
FZZT!


WHAT AM I GONNA DO ?
SHE'S TEN TIMES BETTER THAN BEFORE !!
YU'S THE TYPE WHO SHINES WHEN IT'S THE REAL THING!!
HURRY!
AIRI!! YOU'RE UP!
SHIVR
SHIVR
NOW OUR OTHER SUPER GRADE SCHOOLER,
BRINGING YOU A TENDER LOVE SONG..
WHAT'LL I DO?! I CAN'T SING LIKE THAT..!!
YOU GO, AIRI!

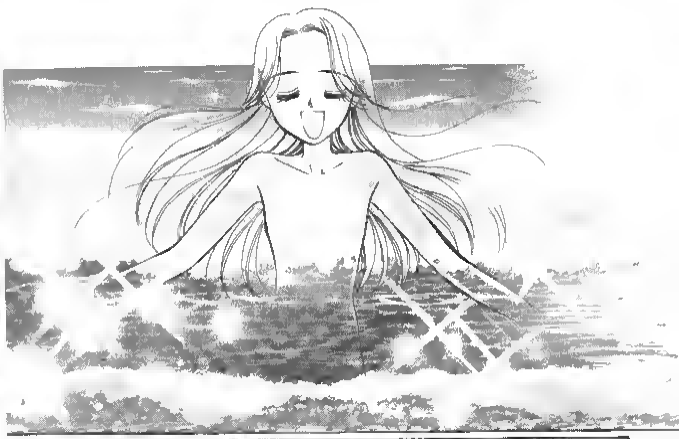

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
WHERE'S AIRI'S SONG?
YADA...
YEEKS!
YADA
YADA
I HAVE TO SING
MY SONG
WHOOSH
MIKE!! CUT AWAY FROM THE MAIN STAGE!!
KLIK...
KLIK...
AIRI!?

THE MUSIC.. ISN'T COMING ON!!?
THE MUSIC!?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MUSIC!?
LOOKS LIKE THE WIRING SHORTED OUT!!
WOOSH!
WOOSH!
THE SOUND SYSTEM'S DOWN!?

DAZZLE!
MY FEELINGS...
AH...

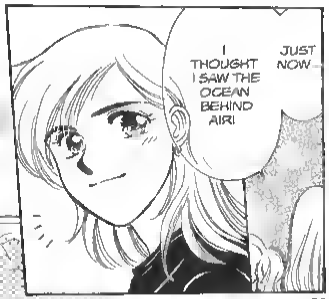
A LOVE ABOUT TO SPILL OVER
A BLUE ALMOST BRIMMING OVER
SHE'S SINGING...
CLAP!!!
CLAP!
CLAP
CLAP
AIRI...
AIRI!!!
aLLLRIIGHT

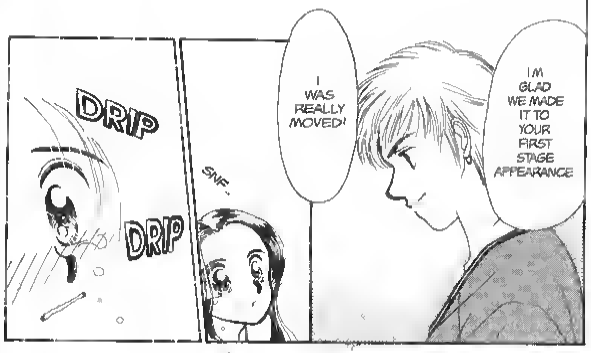
SHIRR
SHIRR
AIRI...!!
AIRI'S SMILE IS SO CALM!
I FOUND MYSELF SMILING ALONG WITH HER!
MY HEART WAS RACING
SO THAT WAS ALL PART OF THE ACT
GOTCHA!
AIRI!
YOU WERE GREAT!
HUH...!?

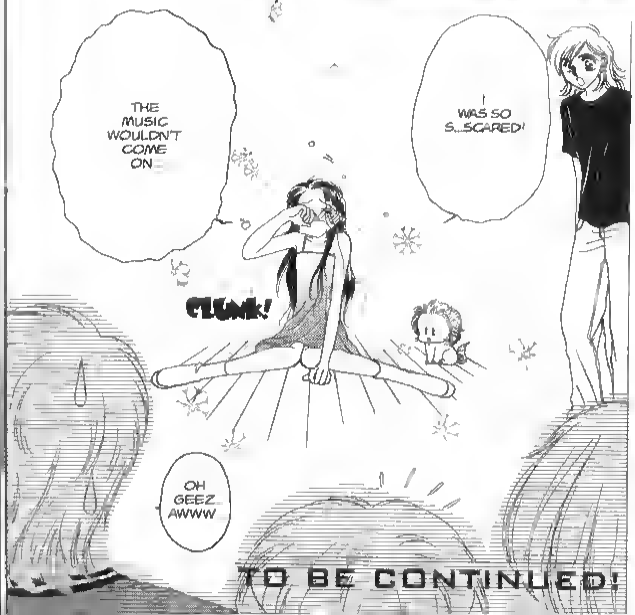


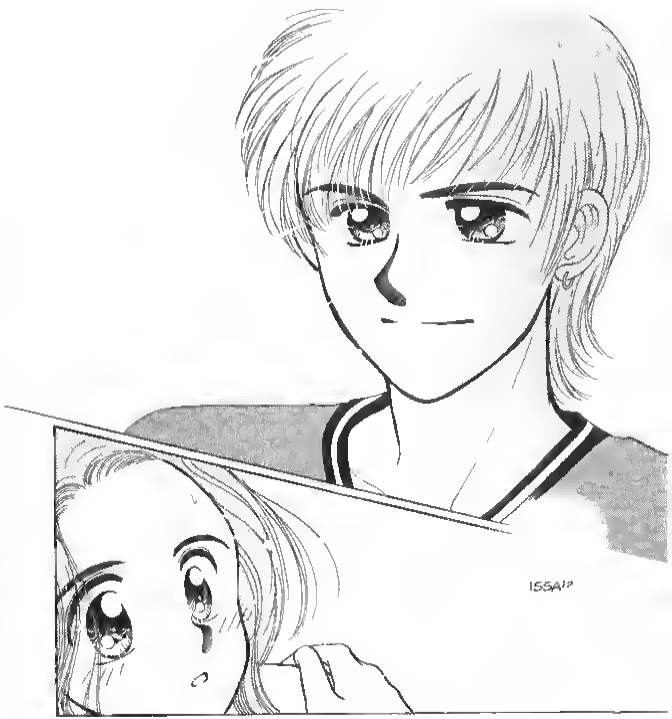
WHAT?
HUH?

YOU GO, AIRI!!
YEEEAHHH!

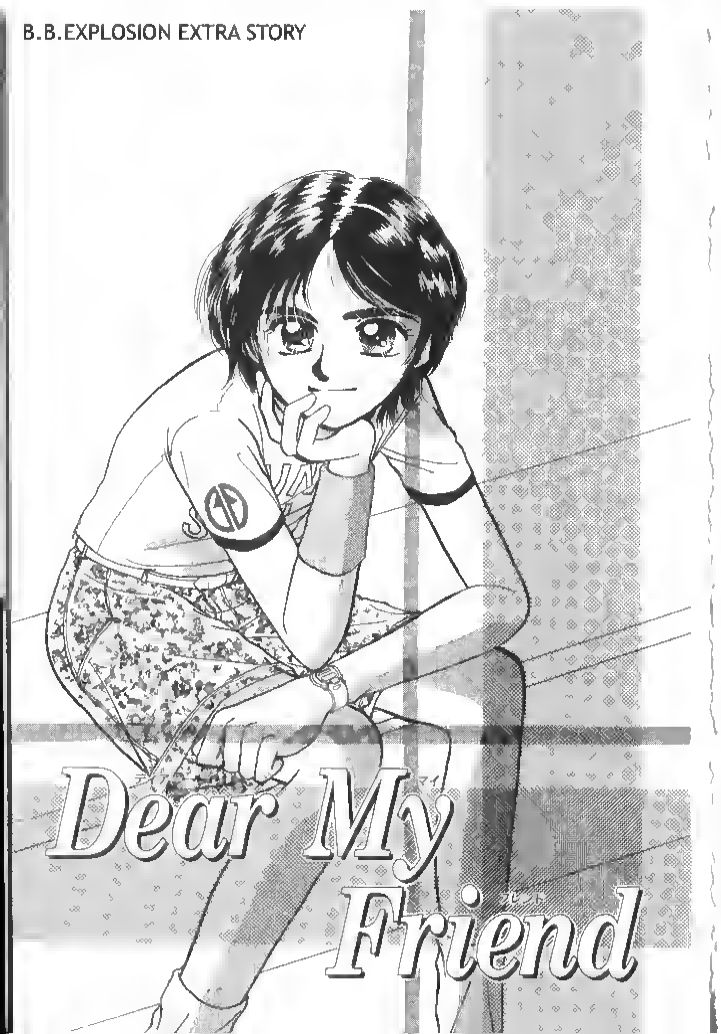

I THOUGHT I SAW THE OCEAN BEHIND AIRI
JUST NOW


DRIP
DRIP
SNF.
I WAS REALLY MOVED!
I'M GLAD WE MADE IT TO YOUR FIRST STAGE APPEARANCE


THE MUSIC WOULDN'T COME ON...
I WAS SO S...SCARED!
CLUNK!
OH GEEZ AWWW
TO BE CONTINUED!

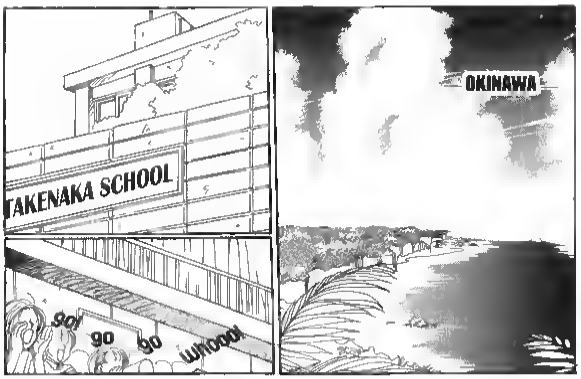

ISSA!?

WE'RE THE SPECIAL GUESTS FOR YOUR CONCERT
AND WE HAVE TO GO RIGHT BACK!
WE JUST GOT IN FROM TOKYO!!

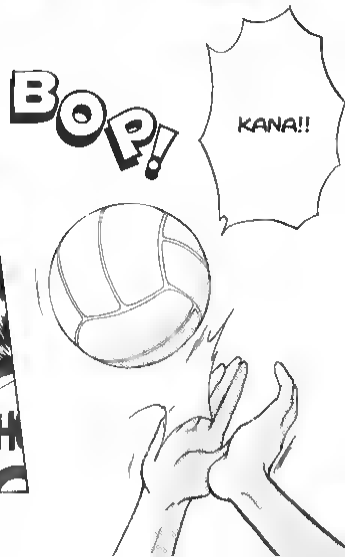


Dear My Friend

KA-BLAM!
BRRIIINGGG!
YUMI!
15
2

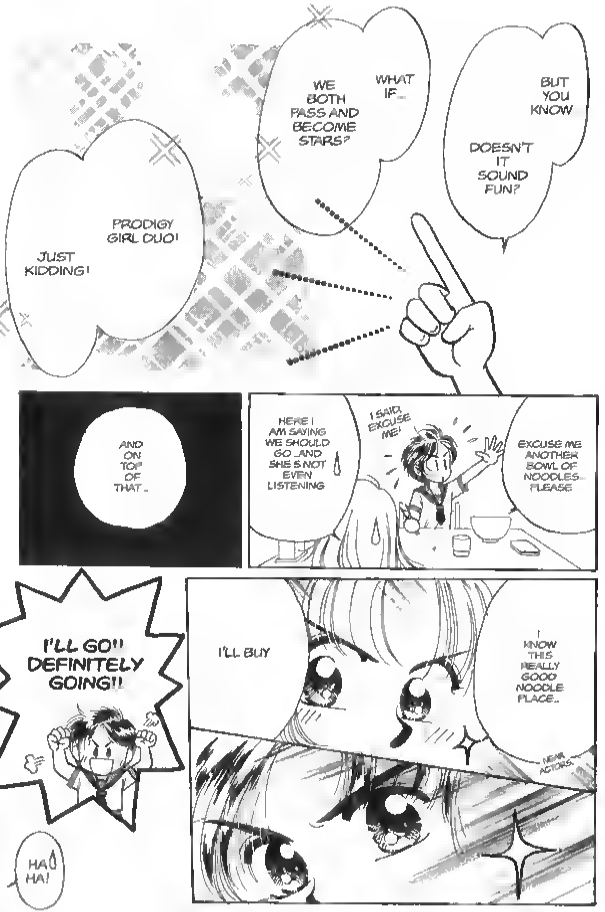

TAKENAKA SCHOOL
OKINAWA
Go!
go
go
WHOOOO!

KOH


BOP!
KANA!!

WE WON!
ALLRIIIGHT!
YAYYY!
1
2
SURE!! THEY'RE BEST FRIENDS!
REALLY, WOW
BUT THEY'RE TOTAL OPPOSITES PERSONALITY WISE...
IT'S JUST LIKE YUMI AND KANA, HUH!
THEY'RE PERFECT TOGETHER!!

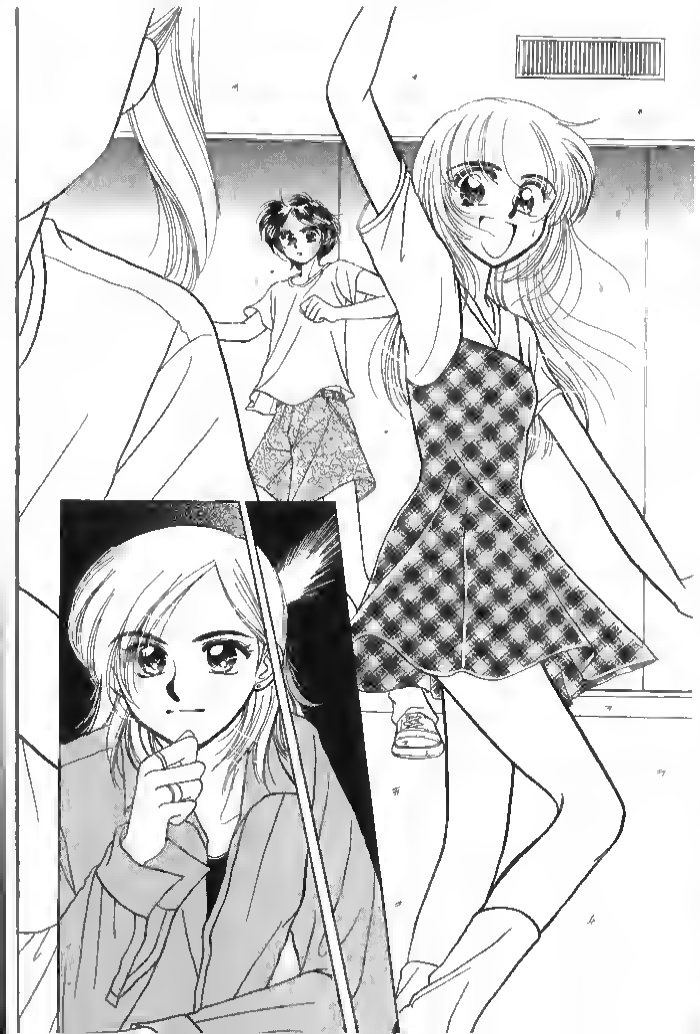
SO HUNGRY...
OH, YUM!
TEE HEE!
GRRRRRWWWL!
HEY YUMI!! ARE YOU FREE THIS COMING SUNDAY?
HUH? YEAH, I'M FREE...
THAT GUY IN CLASS 2...
WHY? ARE YOU FINALLY GONNA CONFESS YOUR LOVE?
NOT THAT!


JUST KIDDING!
PRODIGY GIRL DUO!
WE BOTH PASS AND BECOME STARS?
WHAT IF...
BUT YOU KNOW DOESN'T IT SOUND FUN?
AND ON TOP OF THAT...
HERE I AM SAYING WE SHOULD GO...AND SHE'S NOT EVEN LISTENING
I SAID, EXCUSE ME!
EXCUSE ME ANOTHER BOWL OF NOODLES, PLEASE
I'LL GO!! DEFINITELY GOING!!
I'LL BUY
I KNOW THIS REALLY GOOD NOODLE PLACE...
NEAR ACTORS.
HA! HA!

A...
ACTORS?
YOU WANNA GO TO AN ACTORS AUDITION?
GLUNK!
WHAT'S THAT?
NOT PART OF MY WORLD.
OH, YEAH, YEAH
GEEZ, YUMI, THAT PERFORMANCE SCHOOL THAT SPEED WENT TO!!
WE'D NEVER PASS
BUT THEY SAY THAT ABOUT 2,000 PEOPLE TRY OUT!
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE NICE?
NO WAY!!
WHAAT? SO KANA, DO YOU WANT TO BE A SINGER!?

BO-RING!
HUH?
ARE YOU GONNA WEAR THAT?
YUM!
OKAY
LET'S GO
WELL, I GUESS IT'S OKAY IT'S YOU
I BAKED SOME COOKIES
WANT SOME?
YEAH! AMAZING!
I LOVE YOU KANA

THE OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL, HUH..
UNLIKE KANA, I'M NOT BEAUTIFUL OR TALENTED...
EVEN WITH VOLLEYBALL, I LIKE IT, BUT I'M NOT TOTALLY INTO IT
EVEN MY STUDIES ARE.. WELL.
I WONDER IF I EVEN HAVE ANY TALENT
BUT MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE THE CHALLENGE



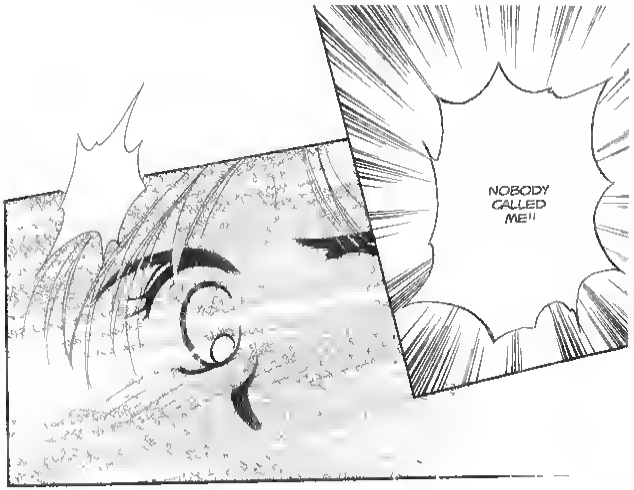
SLAM!
AAAAAGH I WAS SOOO NERVOUS
OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL 5F
OH YOU'RE A GONER.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I GOT A 2 IN MUSIC
HAHAHAHA!
HEY, THAT'S HARSH!
COULD YOU SING?
AS IF!
WE'RE NOW STARTING THE DANCE AUDITION!

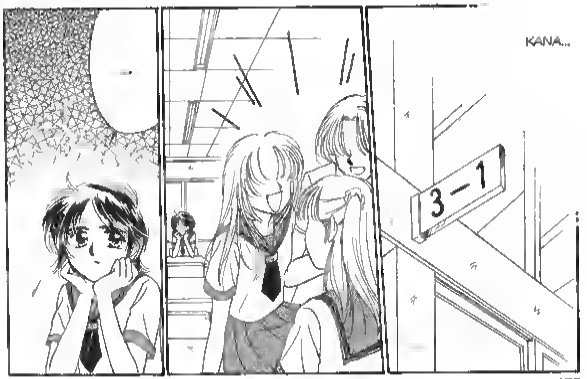
?
BUT YOU KNOW
YESTERDAY'S PHONE CALL WAS A SURPRISE, WASN'T IT?
TAKENAKA SCHOO
3 – 1
HUH? WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
CAN YOU PICK OUT CLOTHES AGAIN? ♡
GUESS IT'S OKAY BECAUSE WE CAN HAVE FUN IN NAHA AGAIN NEXT WEEK!
YEAH, YEAH, THEN YUMI
HA HA HA
WHAT... BUT... IT CAN'T BE...
..DIDN'T...
KANA
KLAKKK!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT DO I MEAN? YOU KNOW, THE SECOND ROUND AUDITIONS. THEY SAID THIS TIME THEY'RE HOLDING THEM AT THE OKINAWA TV BOOM² STUDIO.

D'OHHH
...NO FAIR. OH YUMI, YOU HID IN THE CORNER THE WHOLE TIME.
OH... NOTHING.
WHAT'S UP?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME
WE'LL CALL YOU WITH THE RESULTS
KIKI is Our Love FOREVER
THAT WAS FUN!

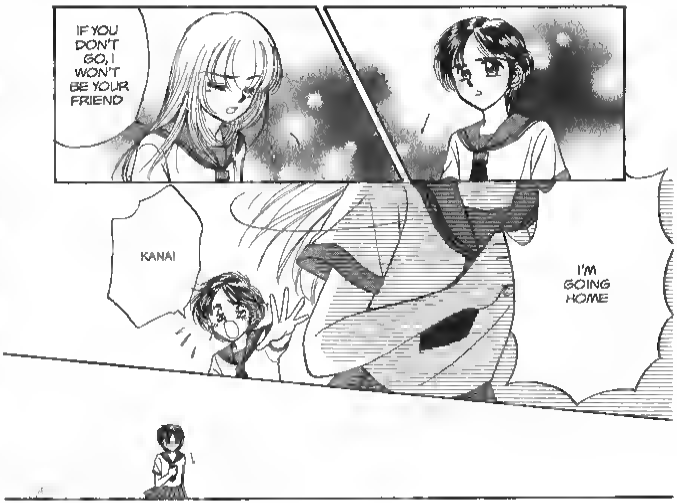
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
I DECIDED NOT TO GO
NOT GOING TO ANY AUDITION, NOPE NOPE
KANA.
YOU SHOULD GO

YOU KNOW, I'M NOT THE ACTORS TYPE SO...
JTT!
I SAID GO!!

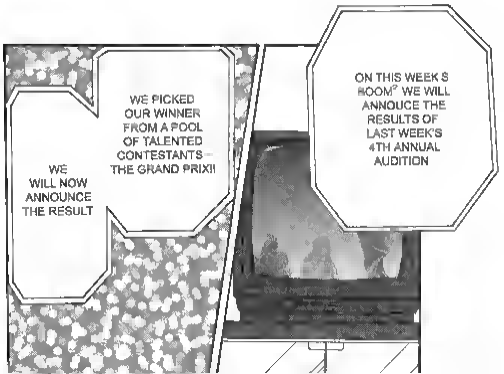

NOBODY CALLED ME!!


KANA...
3-1

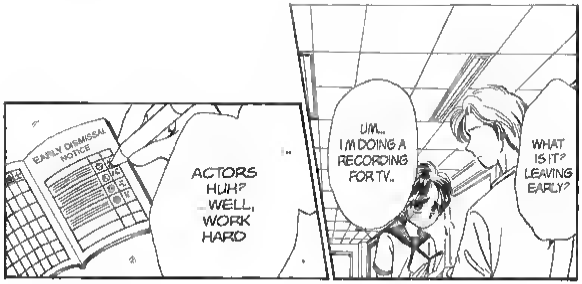
THE 4TH ANNUAL AUDITION GRAND PRIX WINNER IS
YUMI KŌCHI!!!
YUMI KŌCHI
THE 4TH ANNUAL AUDITION PURE STAR AWARD WINNER

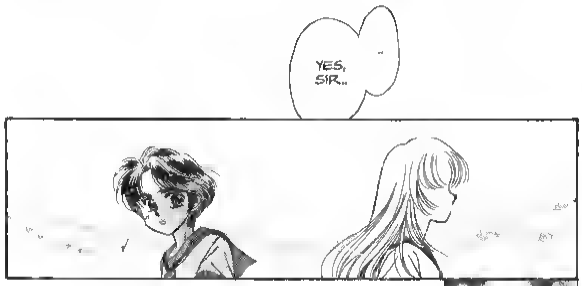

IF YOU DON'T GO, I WON'T BE YOUR FRIEND
KANA!
I'M GOING HOME

HUH, WHAT? WHAT?
DOESN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE A STAR, DOES SHE?
YADDA
YADDA
YADDA
IT'S FANTASTIC!
YUMI!
3 - 1
YOMIE
ZOMIE!
DID YOU SEE BOOM?!
HUH, SO THAT'S YUMI KŌCHI?
THAT'S HER, FROM ACTORS...


WE WILL NOW ANNOUNCE THE RESULT
WE PICKED OUR WINNER FROM A POOL OF TALENTED CONTESTANTS – THE GRAND PRIX!!
ON THIS WEEK'S BOOM? WE WILL ANNOUCE THE RESULTS OF LAST WEEK'S 4TH ANNUAL AUDITION

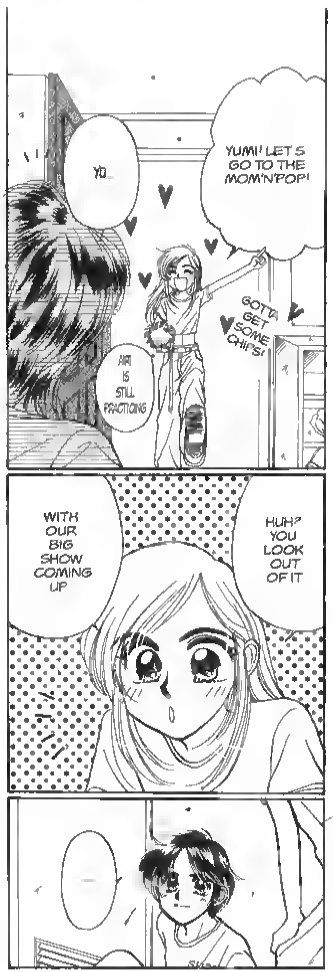
JUST BECAUSE SHE GOT INTO ACTORS, SHE'S ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY..
IT'S REALLY ANNOYING
WOW! ACTS LIKE SHE S SOME TV PERSON-ALITY
SAYS IT S FOR TV
KANA...!!


EARLY DISMISSAL NOTICE
ACTORS HUH? WELL, WORK HARD
UM.. I'M DOING A RECORDING FOR TV..
WHAT IS IT? LEAVING EARLY?

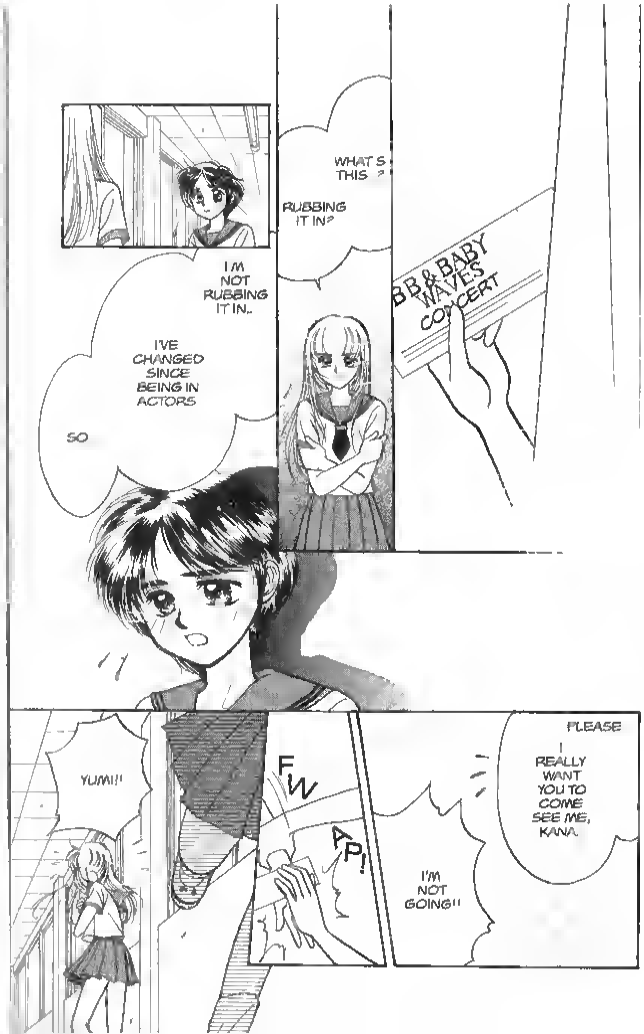

YES, SIR..

OH
SHOOT. I FORGOT MY CHANGE OF CLOTHES
IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS NOW YOU NEVER TALK TO ME ANYMORE

GRRR!
SOMEBODY'S MAKING YOU MISERABLE!
WH-WH-WH-WHAT'S UP WITH THAT!?
...BUT KANA WAS MY BEST FRIEND FOREVER...
YUMI
I KNOW! SHOW HER HOW GOOD YOU ARE!


YU...
YUMI! LET'S GO TO THE MOM'N'POP!
GOTTA GET SOME CHIPS!
AIRI IS STILL PRACTICING
WITH OUR BIG SHOW COMING UP
HUH? YOU LOOK OUT OF IT
—

OKINAWA ACTORS' SCHOOL
OKI


WHAT'S THIS?
RUBBING IT IN?
BB & BABY WAVE'S CONCERT
I'M NOT RUBBING IT IN..
I'VE CHANGED SINCE BEING IN ACTORS
SO
PLEASE I REALLY WANT YOU TO COME SEE ME, KANA.
I'M NOT GOING!!
FWAP!
YUMI!!

SHE'LL SEE HOW INCREDIBLE YUMI IS!
YOU'RE TOTALLY COOL ONSTAGE!!
ONCE SHE SEES, SHE'LL UNDERSTAND!!
SURF
EXCEPT YOU ALWAYS HAVE YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS.
RIGHT!
REALLY?
YO...
AAAH. I REALLY WANT TO SEE YUMI'S SOLO!
YOUR SINGING'S GREAT, YOUR DANCING IS FABULOUS!
YO IS TOTALLY IMPRESSED!!
I THINK YOU'RE COOL TOO!
AIRI WAS SAYING THE SAME THING!

NEXT WE HAVE THE WINNER OF THE 4TH ANNUAL AUDITION GRAND PRIX...
AFTER ONLY TWO MONTHS TONIGHT SHE MAKES HER BRILLIANT STAGE DESUT!!
I'M UP!!
THANK YOU FOR WAITING!
HERE'S YUMI KÖCHI!!
YUMI!! GIRL!!
LLAAEEY HHAA!!

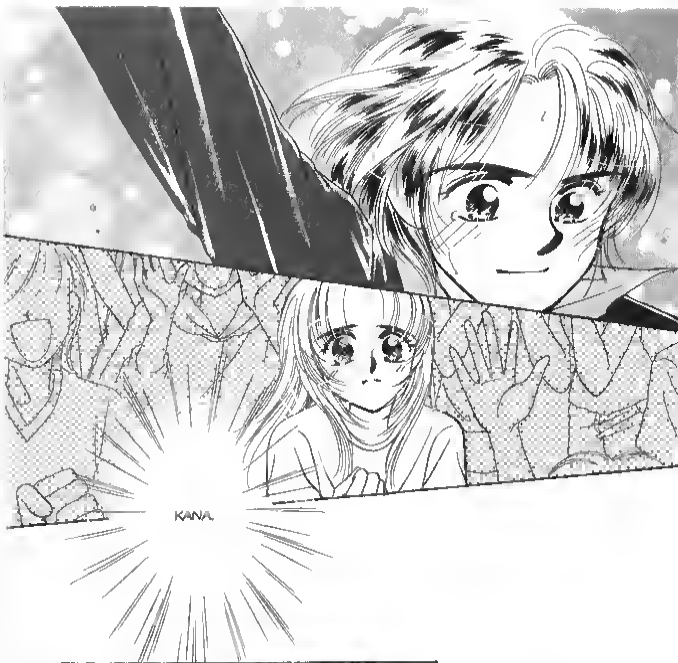
I'M NOT GOING...
KSHKCH!

FWOOSH...
LIGHTS OUT!!
KANA... I WONDER IF SHE CAME...
KATHUMP
KATHUMP
YUMI! IT'S ALMOST TIME!
WHAT THE HECK.
♪ GOOD LUCK! GOOD LUCK! ♪

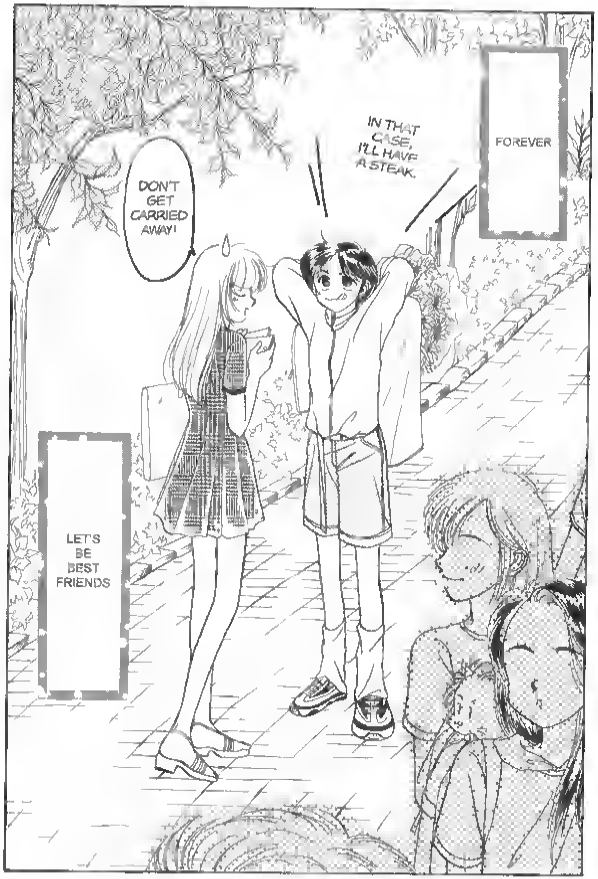
LLRIGHT!!
YEAAAAH!
YUMI!

PRETTY AMAZING, YUMI.
TO INSPIRE AND EXCITE PEOPLE LIKE THAT...
AUUOF-
KANA...

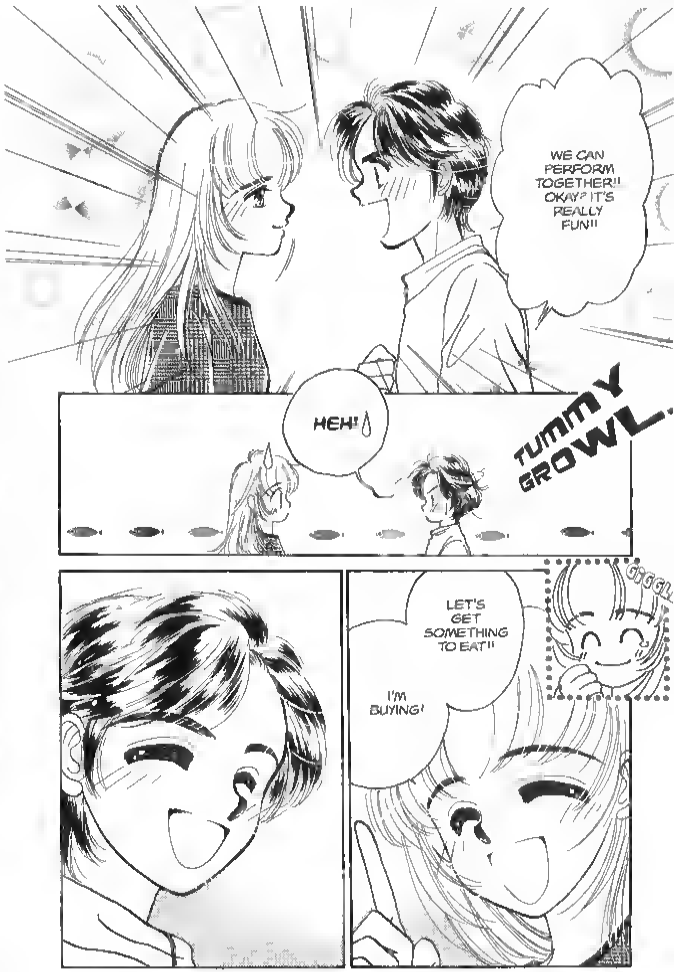
I WANTED TO BE AS GOOD AS YOU
GUESS I'M JUST JEALOUS
MAYBE I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND AT ALL...
YOU KNOW...
IT'S OKAY
YUMI
I'M SORRY-


KANA

KLIK!
GREAT!
FANTASTIC!
SOOO COOL!



DEAR MY FRIEND- THE END-



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